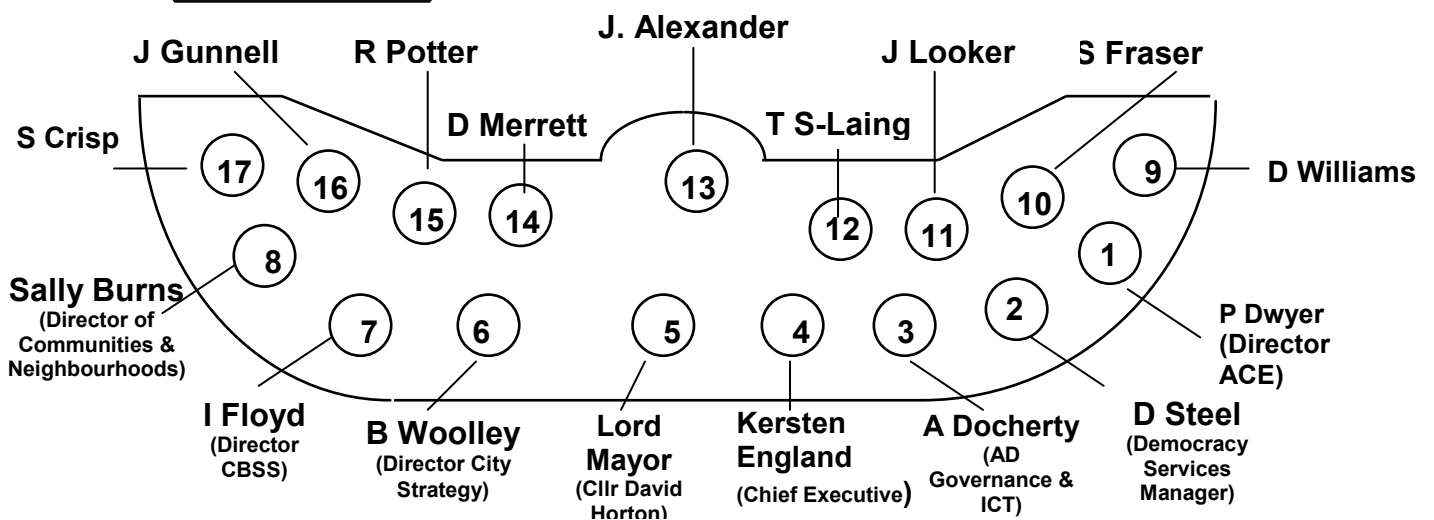
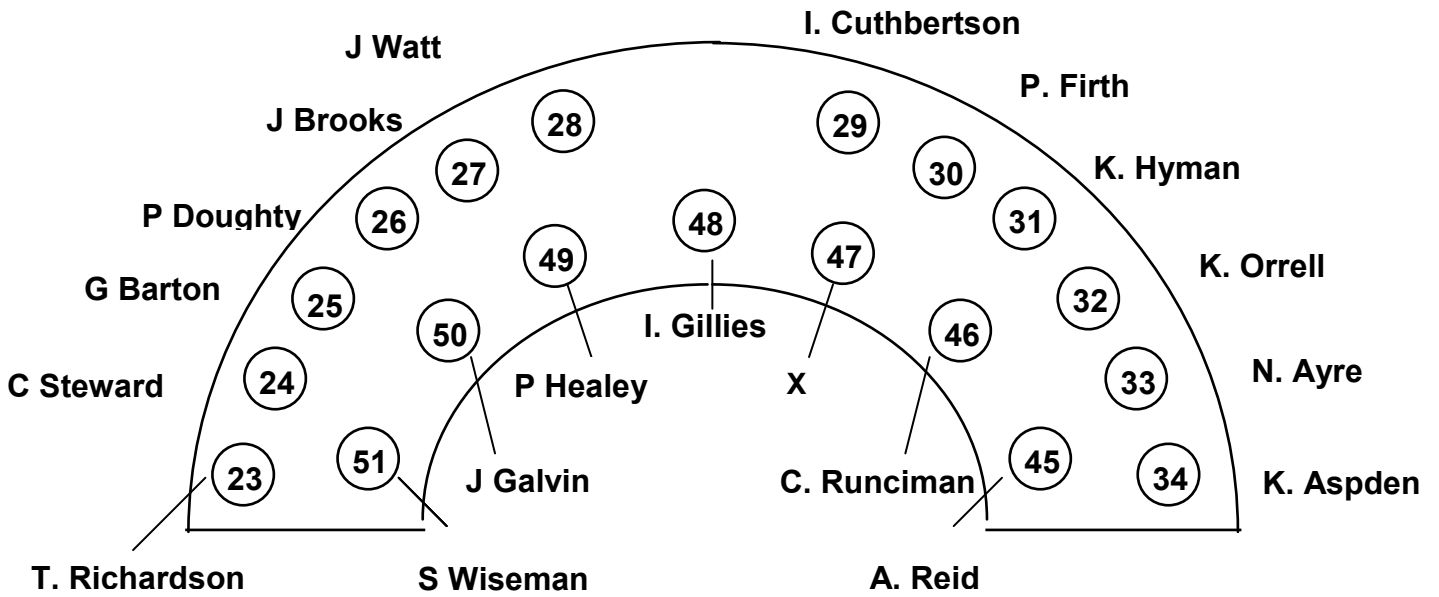


CITY OF YORK COUNCIL SUMMONS

All Councillors, relevant Council Officers and other interested parties and residents are formally invited to attend a meeting of the **City of York Council** at the **Guildhall, York**, to consider the business contained in this agenda on the following date and time

Thursday, 8 December 2011 at 6.30 pm

COUNCIL CHAMBER



A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 52)

To approve and sign the minutes of the two Special and one Ordinary meetings of Council held on 6 October 2011.

3. Civic Announcements

To consider any announcements made by the Lord Mayor in respect of Civic business.

4. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, any member of the public who has registered to address the Council, or to ask a Member of the Council a question, on a matter directly relevant to the business of the Council or the City, may do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Wednesday, 7 December 2011.**

5. Petitions

To consider any petitions received from Members in accordance with Standing Order No.7. To date, no petitions have been received but any received before the appropriate deadline will be reported at the Council meeting.

6. Report of Cabinet Leader and Cabinet Recommendations
(Pages 53 - 62)

To receive and consider a written report from the Leader on the work of the Cabinet, and the Cabinet recommendations for approval, as set out below:

Meeting	Date	Recommendations contained in:
Cabinet	1 November 2011	Minute 64: <i>Capital Programme – Monitor 2</i>

Minute 65: *Treasury Management Monitor 2 Mid Year Review and Prudential Indicators 2011/12*

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=733&Mid=6677&Ver=4>

Cabinet	6 December 2011	Community Stadium Project <i>(minute to follow)</i>
		Gym Expansion at Energise <i>(minute to follow)</i>
		Affordable Housing Targets in Rural Areas <i>(if Cabinet make any recommendations to Council on this issue – minute to follow)</i>

7. Recommendations of the Staffing Matters & Urgency Committee (Pages 63 - 70)

To consider the following recommendations for approval from the Staffing Matters & Urgency Committee:

Date of Meeting	Recommendations contained in:
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7 November 2011	Minute 68: <i>Community Covenant (document attached for information)</i>
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8. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (Pages 71 - 74)

To receive a report from Councillor Galvin, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) on the work of the SMC.

9. Report of Cabinet Member (Pages 75 - 86)

To receive a written report from the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and to question the Cabinet Member thereon, provided any such questions are registered in accordance with the timescales and procedures set out in Standing Order 8.2.1.

10. Activities of Outside Bodies

Minutes of the following meetings of outside bodies, received since the last meeting of Council, have been made available for Members to view via the Council's website at <http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=489&path=0>

Copies may also be obtained by contacting Democracy Support Group at the Guildhall, York (tel. 01904 551088)

- Quality Bus Partnership – Minutes - 8 Sept 2011
- Safer York Partnership/Drug Action Team Partnership Board Meeting – Minutes - 26 Sept 2011

Members are invited to put any questions to the Council's representatives on the above bodies, in accordance with Standing Order 10(b).

11. Appointments and Changes to Membership (Pages 87 - 88)

To consider the appointments and changes to membership of committees and outside bodies set out on the list attached to this summons.

12. Notices of Motion

To consider the following Notices of Motion under Standing Order 12:

A – Motions referred from the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 12.1(a)

None

B – Motions submitted for consideration directly by Council, in accordance with Standing Order 12.1(b)

(i) From Cllr Funnell

“Council notes the benefits of solar power in reducing energy bills and our dependence on oil. It is the environmentally responsible option for business, the public sector and for private households.

Council expresses alarm at the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government's announcement to bring forward, from 1st April 2012 to 12th December 2011, a reduction in the Feed in Tariff for solar panel electricity generation of around 61% for schemes tackling fuel poverty, such as City of York Council's, which was to provide solar panels to around 2,000 homes.

Council expresses its disappointment at the decision to reduce the Feed in Tariff, threatening the overall viability of the York solar scheme. Council also expresses concern at the loss of jobs, in York, that the solar installation industry has reported will result from the announcement.

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to Gregory Barker MP, Minister of State for Climate Change, and requests that all those signed up to schemes and that have undertaken preparatory work prior to the Minister's statement on 31st October, receive the Feed in Tariff rate previously agreed and promoted by his Government.

Council requests that officers and both York MPs lobby the Government following news reports that the Minister may be considering phasing in the Government's proposed cuts in response to strong opposition.”

(ii) From Cllr Steward

“Council welcomes the coalition Government's efforts to reduce the deficit and to provide a period of financial stability following 12 years of economic mismanagement by Labour. Council therefore supports the Government's offer of financial incentives to councils which commit to no rise in council tax.

In support of the coalition Government's policy of freezing council tax CYC pledges to undertake such a council tax freeze for the next two financial years."

(iii) From Cllr Cuthbertson

"Council believes that personal financial education for young people is vital to ensure that they have the skills needed to prosper in a complex economy.

Council notes that, while a petition calling on the Government to make personal financial education part of the national curriculum has attracted more than 100,000 signatures, there are as yet no plans to make such education compulsory or to specify what should be covered.

Council therefore resolves to take action to ensure that children and young people in York are taught these important financial management skills. Council requests that officers bring a report to Cabinet outlining the options available to encourage and support schools in providing personal financial education for every young person in our city."

(iv) From Cllr Cunningham-Cross

"Council places on record its grave concern over the number of young people aged 16-24 years old who are unemployed, which reached an all time record high of 1.02m last month.

Council wishes to express its concern over the continued attacks on the future of children and young people in York, including the cutting of:

- Educational Maintenance Grant
- Future Jobs Fund
- Care to Learn Grant
- Child Tax Credit
- Child Trust Funds

And partial cuts through:

- Childcare element of Working Tax Credit reduced from 80% to 70% of costs
- Three year freeze on Child Benefit.

Council also notes the increase in university fees which will stop many York young people entering higher education.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretaries of State for Education and Work and Pensions to express Council's grave concern over changes to education and welfare that will affect the daily lives and future prospects of York's children and young people."

13. Questions to the Cabinet Leader and Cabinet Members received under Standing Order 10(c)

To deal with the following questions to the Cabinet Leader and / or other Cabinet Members, in accordance with Standing Order 11.3(a):

- (i) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Steward:
"Can the Leader explain to my residents how it is fair for Labour members who are members of unions to merely 'declare an interest' and then be able to vote on increasing funding to the unions?"
- (ii) To the Cabinet Leader, from Cllr Barton:
"What does the Leader believe is the optimum number of people to attend a Britain in Bloom information event?"
- (iii) To the Cabinet Leader, from Cllr Runciman:
"What plans does the Cabinet Leader have to release budget information to the opposition groups?"
- (iv) To the Cabinet Leader, from Cllr Boyce:
"Government cuts to the BBC will mean BBC Radio York losing six hours of local programmes per day and ten hours each weekend, resulting in reduced coverage of local news and York City matches, both of which are valued by residents, as well as result in diminished coverage of council business. Will the Cabinet Leader please write to the Secretary of State for Culture, the Director General of the BBC and the Chair of BBC Governors requesting that the BBC's funding for local radio services is reviewed?"

- (v) To the Cabinet Leader, from Cllr Steward:
“Can the Leader detail how many members of the public have attended Cabinet meetings as they move around the city and does the Leader consider the moving around worthwhile?”
- (vi) To the Cabinet Leader, from Cllr Steward:
“Can the Leader explain what role the Council is paying Trade Unions for that could not be carried out by the Human Resources Department?”
- (vii) To the Cabinet Leader, from Cllr Cunningham-Cross:
“Will the Cabinet Leader please inform Council where York’s Fairtrade City status certificate and plaque are and confirm whether they can be displayed in a prominent place in the Guildhall until the move to West Offices?”
- (viii) To the Cabinet Leader, from Cllr Steward:
“Does the Leader consider that the Fairness Commission having zero meetings outside the ring road, zero meetings in villages and zero meetings in Conservative wards to be fair?”
- (ix) To the Cabinet Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Steward:
“Can the Cabinet Member for City Strategy confirm that with the Council’s focus on ‘fairness’ and the existing inequality between rural and urban buses he will work to address this and encourage the retention of these important rural buses?”
- (x) To the Cabinet Member for City Strategy from Cllr Aspden
“Given the delay in publishing the Air Quality Action Plan, what will the Cabinet Member be doing to ensure positive actions to improve air quality are undertaken quickly for the Fulford Road corridor?”
- (xi) To the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People’s Services, from Cllr Richardson:
“Does the Cabinet Member condemn those who disrupted children’s education last week by participating in a union walk-out whilst negotiations with the Government were and

are still ongoing?”

- (xii) To the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People’s Services, from Cllr Aspden
“Given that Pupil Premium funding is tied to the number of pupils registered for free school meals, what steps are the Council taking to promote take up of free school meals ahead of the schools census on 19th January?”
- (xiii) To the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People’s Services, from Cllr Richardson:
“Will the Cabinet Member consider following Lincolnshire County Council’s example and encourage all schools to become academies?”
- (xiv) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Steward:
“Can the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services clarify whether in the budget consultation the Cabinet will be as, less or more willing to listen to people than it was at the Union Terrace ‘consultation’?”
- (xv) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Steward:
“Can the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services detail how many hours of council staff paid time have been spent on Fairness Commission related work and what is the cost of literature produced?”
- (xvi) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Cuthbertson:
“Would the Cabinet Member please give an assurance that the facilities at our elderly persons homes, which are enjoyed by the wider community, will still be available during the re-organisation?”
- (xvii) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Steward:
“Can the Cabinet Member for Health confirm, with a simple yes or no, whether her Labour government committed to a real terms increase in NHS funding for York’s residents at the last General Election?”

- (xviii) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Riches:
“Will the Cabinet Member for Housing please give her assessment of the potential impact of the Government’s Housing Strategy paper, ‘Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England?’”
- (xix) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Orrell:
“What steps are the Council taking to help organisations like York People First adjust to the personalisation agenda and cope with the reduced availability of grants?”
- (xx) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Cuthbertson:
“Given the increase in the number of people with dementia, both now and forecast, is the Cabinet Member confident that there will be sufficient capacity in the new proposals to accommodate this?”
- (xxi) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Ayre
“What does the Cabinet Member believe would be the minimum requirement of facilities for a true community stadium?”
- (xxii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Hodgson:
“Will the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion voice her opposition to specific changes contained within The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, changes that will severely limit entitlement to legal aid and access to justice for some of the most vulnerable residents in our city?”
- (xxiii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Ayre
“How many Ward Committees need to agree to fund the planned York 800 celebrations for the plan to be viable and what is the fall back plan if there is insufficient sign up?”

(xxiv) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Ayre

“What advice will the Cabinet Member be giving Ward Committees and Community groups on how to deal with public expectations for Ward Committee funded schemes, given the current uncertainty around the amount of money available to Ward Committees next year?”

(xxv) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Ayre

“Does the Cabinet Member support the Fairness Commission proposal to scrap Ward Committee funding?”

(xxvi) To the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods, from Cllr Reid

“Given Labour’s manifesto commitment to increase highways spending, will the Cabinet Member be rejecting the proposals by the Fairness Commission to make major savings in this area?”

(xxvii) To the Cabinet Member for Crime & Community Safety, from Cllr Steward:

“Can the Cabinet Member for Crime detail what the Council is doing to combat the problem of metal theft?”

14. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer for this meeting:

Name: Jill Pickering

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 552061
- E-mail – jill.pickering@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Special Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 6th October, 2011, starting at 6.35 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Cllr David Horton) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD

Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

Galvin

CLIFTON WARDDouglas
King**DERWENT WARD**

Brooks

**DRINGHOUSES &
WOODTHORPE WARD**Hodgson
Reid
Semlyen**FISHERGATE WARD**D'Agorne
Taylor**FULFORD WARD**

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARDLooker
Watson**HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD**Cuthbertson
Firth
Richardson**HESLINGTON WARD**

Levene

HEWORTH WARDBoyce
Potter**HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD**

Ayre

HOLGATE WARD

Alexander
Crisp
Riches

HULL ROAD WARD

Barnes
Fitzpatrick

HUNTINGTON & NEW MICKLEGATE WARD
EARSWICK WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Warters

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Steward

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE &
CLIFTON WITHOUT WARD

Cunningham-Cross
McIlveen
Watt

STRENSALL WARD

Doughty
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Jeffries
Burton
Williams

WHELDRAKE WARD

Barton

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Scott and Funnell

FREEDOM OF THE CITY

28. The Lord Mayor declared the object of the meeting, under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, which was to confer the Freedom of the City upon the York Normandy Veterans.

It was then moved by Cllr Alexander and seconded by Cllr Gillies:

“That, pursuant to its powers under Section 279(i) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do confer the Freedom of the City of York upon:

**Albert Barritt
Kenneth Bell
William Carter
Gordon Collinson
Kenneth Basil Cooke
Tom Dixon
Douglas Haw
Cyril Bernard Haworth
Dennis James Haydock
Frank Lodge
George Meredith
Roy Rowbotham
Kenneth William Smith
George William Witty
Arthur Wragg**

in formal recognition of the eminent service that they have rendered to the City.”

The motion was then put to the vote and declared CARRIED unanimously and it was

RESOLVED: that the above notice of motion be approved.¹

Cllr D Horton

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.35 pm and concluded at 6.40 pm]

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CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Special Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 6th October, 2011, starting at 6.40 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Cllr David Horton) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD

Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

Galvin

CLIFTON WARDDouglas
King**DERWENT WARD**

Brooks

**DRINGHOUSES &
WOODTHORPE WARD**Hodgson
Reid
Semlyen**FISHERGATE WARD**D'Agorne
Taylor**FULFORD WARD**

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARDLooker
Watson**HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD**Cuthbertson
Firth
Richardson**HESLINGTON WARD**

Levene

HEWORTH WARDBoyce
Potter**HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD**

Ayre

HOLGATE WARD

Alexander
Crisp
Riches

HULL ROAD WARD

Barnes
Fitzpatrick

HUNTINGTON & NEW
EARSWICK WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Warters

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Steward

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE &
CLIFTON WITHOUT WARD

Cunningham-Cross
McIlveen
Watt

STRENSALL WARD

Doughty
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Jeffries
Burton
Williams

WHELDRAKE WARD

Barton

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Scott and Funnell

HONORARY ALDERMEN

29. The Lord Mayor declared the object of the meeting, under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, which was to confer the status of Honorary Alderman upon a number of former Members of Council.

It was then moved by Cllr Alexander and seconded by Cllr Runciman:

“That, pursuant to its powers under Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the City of York upon:

Steven Galloway
Susan Galloway
Madeleine Kirk
Jonathan Morley
Richard Watson
Irene Waudby

in formal recognition of their significant contribution to the City during the time that they served upon City of York Council.”

The motion was put to the vote and declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above motion be approved.¹

Cllr D Horton

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.40 pm and concluded at 6.45 pm]

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CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 6th October, 2011, starting at 6.45 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Cllr David Horton) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD

Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

Galvin

CLIFTON WARDDouglas
King
Scott**DERWENT WARD**

Brooks

**DRINGHOUSES &
WOODTHORPE WARD**Hodgson
Reid
Semlyen**FISHERGATE WARD**D'Agorne
Taylor**FULFORD WARD**

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARDLooker
Watson**HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD**Cuthbertson
Firth
Richardson**HESLINGTON WARD**

Levene

HEWORTH WARDBoyce
Potter**HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD**

Ayre

HOLGATE WARD

Alexander
Crisp
Riches

HULL ROAD WARD

Barnes
Fitzpatrick

HUNTINGTON & NEW
EARSWICK WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Warters

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Steward

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE &
CLIFTON WITHOUT WARD

Cunningham-Cross
McIlveen
Watt

STRENSALL WARD

Doughty
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Jeffries
Burton
Williams

WHELDRAKE WARD

Barton

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Funnell.

Cllr Scott sent apologies, indicating that he would be arriving late at the meeting. He arrived at the meeting at approx 8.10pm - agenda item 8 (Scrutiny Annual Report).

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

The following **prejudicial** interests were declared:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Description of Interest</u>
Merrett	6 - Cabinet recommendations (re Minute 40(iv) - use of contingency fund for St Clements Hall)	Member of St Clements Hall

The following **personal** interests were declared:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Description of Interest</u>
Alexander	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of GMB Union
Barnes	12(i) – Notice of Motion re Health & Social Care Bill 13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Healthcare employee Member of Unison
Crisp	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of retired section of Unison
Fraser	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of retired section of Unison and Unite (ACTS/TGWU Sections)
Gunnell	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet	Sister of a member of the GMB Union

	Leader, relating to Union officers	
Hodgson	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of Unison and the PCS Union
King	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Father of a union representative
Levene	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of Unite
Merrett	9 – Report of Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People's Services	As a parent, and a governor of two York schools
Richardson	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of Unite
Riches	12(i) – Notice of Motion re Health & Social Care Bill	Member of Governing Council of York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Semlyen	12(ii) – Notice of Motion re energy conservation / installation of photovoltaic panels	In receipt of feed-in tariff payments from solar panels and occasional income from recommending solar panels
Simpson-Laing	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of Unison
Williams	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of Unite and Unison
Wiseman	12(i) – Notice of Motion re Health & Social Care Bill	Public Governor of York Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

31. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 30 June 2011 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 4 August 2011 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

32. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor announced that tickets had sold out for the John Barry concert to be held at the Barbican on 30th October.

33. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Lord Mayor announced that one member of the public had registered to speak at the meeting.

Andy Chase spoke on behalf of York Welfare Group, with reference to the Council's consultation on the future of Elderly People's Homes (EPHs). He highlighted two areas of concern; namely, the proposal to reduce the overall number of places in EPHs, and the potential privatisation or outsourcing of services. He expressed the hope that the choices of those in residential care would be respected and their concerns taken into account.

34. PETITIONS

Under Standing Order 7, petitions were presented by:

- (i) Cllr Hodgson, on behalf of residents of Dringhouses and Woodthorpe ward, requesting that the Turf Tavern pub not be closed.¹
- (ii) Cllr D'Agorne, on behalf of residents of Fishergate, seeking an extension of the 20 mph zone in their area.²

RESOLVED: That the above petitions be referred to the Cabinet or appropriate committee.

Action Required

1-2: Schedule items on Forward Plan for suitable meetings and keep relevant Members updated on progress SS

35. REPORT OF CABINET LEADER AND CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

A written report was received from the Cabinet Leader, Cllr James Alexander, on the work of the Cabinet.

A Questions

Notice had been received of twenty-six questions on the written report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The first six questions were put and answered as follows:

(i) From Cllr D'Agorne:

"Will this programme [Reinvigorate York] include reviewing all highway signing that detracts from views of the walls, bars and other historic features of the city, and can you assure us that additional cycle parking will be provided when railings are removed and outdated 'butterfly' (wheelbender) stands will be replaced with Sheffield stands?"

The Leader replied:

"This programme will include reviewing all highway signing that detracts from views of the walls, bars and other historic features of the city. I have not had any detailed discussions yet about cycle parking but I am happy to discuss this with Sir Ron Cooke."

(ii) From Cllr Cuthbertson:

"Given there will no longer be any capital receipt from Union Terrace car and coach park to fund Reinvigorate York, has the project been scaled down?"

The Leader replied:

"A partial capital receipt of £2m can no longer be committed to this scheme as the sale is not proceeding. However the ambition remains the same. Sir Ron Cooke is confident a lot can be achieved by using existing council budgets more wisely. We would like to see further investment in the city centre. We will have more of an idea of the financial position

for 2012/13 when the government announces its grant settlement in December.”

(iii) From Cllr Watt:

“Will the Council Leader accept my advice that it is unhelpful to service personnel to have their predicament ‘politicised’ by statements on the Covenant such as “Conservative Liberal-Democrat Cuts” and reference to pressures resulting from government policy to increase the size of the Territorial Army?”

The Leader replied:

“I was repeating the words said to me by military personnel I have met on a number of occasions since becoming council leader. Morale in the armed forces is not great when a government who promised to help the armed forces are sacking personnel on active duty. The cuts are coming from the government and that government is a coalition of the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats. The Territorial Army will increase significantly in size and some members of the Territorial Army are reticent to declare to employers or potential employers the good work they do in the military because employers see this as a burden rather than a benefit. The military and the government has recognised this issue and the Council should play its part in also helping employers realise the benefits of employing members of the TA. The Community Covenant scheme goes some way towards this and this has the full backing of the military, the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government and I would like to say this council.”

(iv) From Cllr Barton:

“Before issuing his proposals on the Community Covenant will the Leader seek advice and guidance from those Members of the Council, regardless of their political affiliations, who have run businesses and at the same time served as an active member of the Territorial Army?”

The Leader replied:

“It has been agreed that group leaders will take the issue to a meeting of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee and the document will be based on government guidelines. I would suggest this input would be welcome and that the conduit for this is through respective group leaders before it comes to Staffing and Urgency.”

(v) From Cllr D'Agorne:

"Given the possibility that the additional funding will not be consolidated in the base budget, is consideration being given to showing this on council tax information so that residents are made aware of the long term hidden cut they face?"

The Leader replied:

"I have no issue with an explanation of the 2.5% last year being included in the information sent to residents and the same information on this year if required."

(vi) From Cllr Watt:

"Is the Council Leader aware that the council tax freeze policy was in the Conservative Manifesto for last year's general election, was not Labour policy and that there was never any doubt that this policy would also be Conservative Council Group policy; therefore, it is disingenuous for him to suggest it was his idea – particularly when council tax all but doubled under the last Labour government?"

The Leader replied:

"The council tax freeze policy for York was first called for and raised in the public domain in The Press on 20th December 2010. I wrote to all group leaders asking them to freeze council tax in their budget proposals. All groups did so. Council tax is decided by local councils and for the last 8 of the 13 years of the Labour government Labour did not set council tax in York. In the last 4 years your group held the balance of power and supported any increases during those years."

The time limit having expired for this item, written answers were circulated after the meeting to the remaining question as follows:

(vii) From Cllr Watt:

"In view of the Cabinet Leader's concern that money might be better allocated to promoting jobs for young people, will he consider reducing his cabinet by one post in order to fund a council appointment of an additional young person?"

Reply:

It is curious that the Conservative group, the so called party of law and order, does not support a Cabinet Member for

Crime and Community Safety. It is even more curious that other Conservative councils who first pioneered having such a cabinet position disagree with them. And even more curious still that instead of a local cabinet member for crime and community safety they would prefer a police commissioner who is paid £122,000. I would prefer to see 8 young people employed than that waste.

(viii) From Cllr D'Agorne:

"Are any current apprenticeships facing redundancy and what are the prospects for retention at the end of their training?"

Reply:

None that I am aware of as we have been actively recruiting apprenticeships. 36 have been recruited so far this financial year. The skills and experience apprenticeships receive will set them in good stead when seeking employment either at CYC or elsewhere. However, it is difficult to say what retention is likely when we are still receiving unprecedented cuts from the Conservative Liberal Democrat government which is leading to job losses.

(ix) From Cllr Healey:

"If the Labour Party Budget amendment proposed in February of this year had been successful, how many apprenticeships would this have funded?"

Reply:

You are anticipating that the Conservative amendment agreed by Liberal Democrat and Conservative councillors was mutually exclusive to the Labour amendment. This was not the case. The Labour amendment passed in June increased apprenticeship funding awarded by the Conservative amendment by 15%. This was a manifesto pledge. 36 apprenticeships have been created so far through the total funding awarded.

(x) From Cllr Galvin:

Relating to the first sentence of the fourth paragraph under the heading 'Increasing Jobs and Economic Growth', does the Leader support the Shadow Chancellor's call for increasing the Nation's Debt as a solution to the economic problems of the country?"

Reply:

I support the Shadow Chancellor's call for a tax cut in reducing VAT to stimulate the economy, for a bank bonus tax to pay for getting young people into work and spending in the economy and I support the Shadow Chancellor calling for growth to be considered more than austerity through slower reductions in public expenditure. The IMF backed this latter point this week in statements referring to a possible double dip recession.

(xi) From Cllr D'Agorne:

"How will demolishing a small toilet block on Parliament Street without providing some other means of screening traffic intrusion benefit the city centre economy?"

Reply:

Toilet blocks do not exist to screen traffic. Replacing this building with a performance space is under consideration. However, I will feed in your comments into the Reinvigorate York initiative.

(xii) From Cllr Healey:

"What advice has the Leader received from Officers as to the effect that Monks Cross 2 will have on the likelihood of the Piccadilly redevelopment starting in this Council term?"

Reply

None.

(xiii) From Cllr Watt:

"Rather than just fostering a climate that has led to interest in hotel applications and retail opportunities, will the Cabinet leader agree to brief the Labour members of the planning Committees that it would help York's economic growth and the creation of jobs if they adopted a more positive attitude to approving planning applications for such developments?"

Reply:

I am not sure where the Conservative Group are coming from on this. First of all you and your Government want to protect the green belt, then you want presumed consent for development, then you want local communities to have a choice. I will not interfere with the planning process due to its quasi-judicial nature.

(xiv) From Cllr D'Agorne:

"What is the expected timescale for the Community Stadium project, given that a public inquiry is required with it being a departure from the Local Plan and involves council owned land?"

Reply:

It is at the discretion of the Secretary for State, whether the application will be 'called-in' and a Public Inquiry held. It would take between 30 to 36 months to procure and complete the scheme. If there were to be an external intervention beyond the direct control of the council (for example a call-in Public Inquiry or Judicial Review) this would add time to the completion date, as it would with any major development scheme.

(xv) From Cllr Galvin:

"Is the Leader fully aware of the alternative proposals for a Community Stadium and if so can he update Council on any information he has?"

Reply:

I can update Council that Oakgate have submitted their planning application and this is live. The first alternative application has not been submitted. An e-mail from John Guildford indicated a third plan but no detail has been submitted. Should these plans come to fruition the planning process can give consideration and these applications will be publicly available for scrutiny.

(xvi) From Cllr Healey:

"Could the Council Leader expand on his statement 'Any concerns should be evidence-based, as should the case for retail expansion at Monks Cross'?"

Reply:

Concerns have been raised about the proposed retail development before the evidence to quantify or nullify fears have been published. I think it is important to give a view on the facts rather than fear or a concern for market share rather than a growing market.

(xvii) From Cllr D'Agorne:

"What is the expected timescale for this project [York Central] to come forward if a major retail development at

Monks Cross is given approval and will the plan for comparison retail within York Central now be dropped?"

Reply:

Impetus on this development has increased since Labour took control of the council and we have strategically purchased an area of land to progress the development. I am keen for the proposed development to go to market in the next couple of years. It is important we get this right rather than progress at haste. Moreover this scheme has had a long history. I am uncertain what is referred to as 'comparison retail' but an element of retail on York Central will be required to make the financial model stack up.

(xviii) From Cllr Healey:

"What are the costs of the 'free' Wi-fi scheme in Y1 and 2 and what benefits does he envisage for York?"

Reply:

The pilot scheme will cost £30k from existing budgets. Once up and running businesses are to be consulted on whether this should expand across the city centre and options for funding will be considered. So far I have received only positive responses and the retail strategy group are very much in favour. Benefits include attractiveness to shoppers, visitors and businesses, uniqueness compared to other UK and European cities, opportunities for IP TV as part of a York television channel and a change in the way we deliver services such as CCTV network or reporting in grotspots.

(xix) From Cllr D'Agorne:

"Can the Leader assure us that only organisations on Ed Milliband's 'good companies' list will be allowed advertising space?"

Reply:

Not when I do not control all advertising space.

(xx) From Cllr Healey:

"What evidence does the Leader have his assertion that there could be 'a company to run the front homepage, to pay for maintenance costs and for the Council to receive a cut of advertising revenue'?"

Reply:

Two media companies saying they are interested in this model and being a homepage provider.

(xxi) From Cllr Runciman:

“How does the Cabinet Leader intend to judge the success of the Fairness Commission?”

Reply:

Through the quality of input and insight into the budget process and through the long term outcomes of creating a fairer society in York. This will be difficult due to the likelihood of poverty increasing due to Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government policy. In York 1,950 of York’s poorest people will lose £50 a month due to housing benefit changes, homelessness will increase and York will be unaffordable for those on housing benefit by 2026. The work of the Fairness Commission and this administration may have to focus on reducing the effect of such policies.

(xxii) From Cllr Aspden:

“How many residents attended the public meetings of the Fairness Commission?”

Reply:

The Fairness Commission had approximately 200 people attending the public meetings despite two meetings being held on two record-breaking hot days of 30th September and 1st October.

In addition, the commission is expecting more than 500 web and postcard responses and staff suggestions by the closing date.

I am told the final meeting last night was well-attended by young people.

(xxiii) From Cllr Firth:

“The Cabinet Leader says he believes in an open Council, can he say why none of the answers to Freedom of Information requests were published on the Council website between the beginning of August and the beginning of October?”

Reply:

When the Council responds to a requestor with information, the Council waits 28 days before publishing the request and

answer on the website. This is to allow the requestor the statutory timeframe to come back and ask for further clarification or information. All FOIs are live.

I would like to draw your attention to FOI request Y3538, attachment 13. This email to Councillor Carol Runciman explains that the previous Liberal Democrat administration she was deputy leader for had encouraged officers to progress the sale proposal.

(xxiv) From Cllr D'Agorne

"Can the names of council contractors and consultants be published online in the interests of transparency?"

Reply:

They already are when over £500.

(xxv) From Cllr Hyman:

"Why did the Cabinet Leader decide to delay the publication of his entire report to Council instead of producing a separate update on the Community Covenant, after the Group Leaders' meeting?"

Reply:

As I explained to group leaders it was an integral part of my report and I wanted to ensure that the community covenant issue that I have been working on did not look like an afterthought. I also thought it was important that group leaders discussed the issue and the time for that was the scheduled leaders' meeting on the Friday after the report publishing date.

(xxvi) From Cllr Orrell:

"Can the Cabinet Leader say which items from his party's manifesto he believes have been delivered?"

Reply:

- 1. Seeking to increase apprenticeships*
- 2. Holding an annual business conference*
- 3. Reversing £1m of Conservative Liberal Democrat cuts*
- 4. Scrapping a £1.4m new council office in Acomb*
- 5. Creating a high level post to tackle crime and community safety*
- 6. Setting up the independent Fairness Commission*

We are currently working towards:

- 1. Delivering more affordable housing through increasing housing targets in the LDF*
- 2. Supporting 20mph speed limits in residential areas*
- 3. Increasing the use of community payback to ensure those responsible for vandalism clean up their mess*
- 4. Increasing the amount we recycle through committing capital to new recycling boxes and revenue to a new promotional campaign*
- 5. Advertising assisted waste collection services to elderly residents through the council tax statements*

Cllr Orrell can look forward to the delivery of the remainder of our manifesto pledges, as well as a number of other priorities that will emerge, over the course of this administration.

B Cabinet Recommendations

Council Plan

Cllr Alexander moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded, the following recommendation contained in the Officer report at page 48 of the additional Council papers circulated on 30 September:

“[That Council] approve the Council Plan and the priorities it sets for the next four years.”

On being put to the vote, the recommendation was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above recommendation in respect of the Council Plan be approved.¹

Capital Programme

Cllr Alexander then moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 26 of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 July 2011:

- (i) That Council approve the re-stated 2011/12 to 2015/16 capital programme, as summarised in Table 4 at paragraph 37 of the report and detailed in Annex 1.²*

- (ii) *That Council approve the use of additional resources in the form of prudential borrowing at a value of £65k, to fund the overspend on Clements Hall.*²

On being put to the vote, the recommendations were declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the recommendations contained in Minute 26 of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 July 2011 be approved.²

Cllr Alexander then moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 40 of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 September:

“That Council approve:

- (i) The net adjustments of an increase of £5.436k in 2011/12 and a reduction of £3.849k in 2012/13, as detailed in the report and contained in Annex A.*³
- (ii) The increase of £38k in the Travellers’ electricity units scheme, funded by prudential borrowing and supported by existing revenue budgets (paragraph 15).*³
- (iii) The addition to the capital programme of the Howe Hill Hostel scheme at £50k, to be funded from RTB capital receipts not committed elsewhere in the housing capital programme (paragraph 16).*³
- (iv) The use of the £300k contingency fund to fund the following schemes, totalling £170k:*³
 - St Clements Hall - £30k (para 23)*
 - 29 Castlegate - £35k (para 24)*
 - Decent Homes standard - £69k (paras 25-27)*
 - Fishergate Postern - £20k (paras 28-29)*
 - Castle Mills Car Park - £16k (para 30)”*³

On being put to the vote, the recommendations were declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the recommendations in Minute 40 of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 September 2011 be approved.³

National Planning Policy Framework

Cllr Alexander then moved, and Cllr Merrett seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 53 of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 October 2011:

- (i) *That Council approve the attached response to the consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework, as amended by the changes recommended by the LDF Working Group at their meeting on 3 October 2011, for submission to the Department of Communities & Local Government.*⁴

- (ii) *That Council delegate to the Director of City Strategy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for City Strategy, authority to make any changes to the submission that are necessary as a result of the above recommendation.*⁴

On being put to the vote, the recommendations were declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the recommendations in Minute 53 of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 October 2011 be approved.⁴

Action Required

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Take any action necessary to implement the agreed Council Plan | LH |
| 2. Take any action necessary to finalise the revised Capital Programme, including the use of prudential borrowing to fund the overspend on St Clements Hall | KB |
| 3. Make the agreed changes to the Capital Programme, including the use of £300k contingency funding | RB |
| 4. Submit the agreed response to the NPPF consultation, after making any required amendments with Cabinet Member | MG |

36. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

As Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee, Cllr Jeffries moved, and Cllr Brooks seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 21 of the meeting of that committee held on 26 July 2011:

“(i) That Council amend the Council procedure rules to allow for four rather than five motions to be routinely presented to Council.

(ii) That Council remove the following protocols and policies from the Constitution:

Protocol on report writing

Electronic Communications policy

Whistle blowing policy

Protocol on Councillor Working Groups.

Anti Money Laundering Guidance.¹

(iii) That Council increase the Chief Finance Officer’s authority to write off debts to sums up to and including £30,000.¹

On being put to the vote, the recommendations were declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the recommendations in Minute 21 of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting held on 26 July 2011 be approved.¹

Action Required

1. Make the agreed amendments to the Constitution AD

37. SCRUTINY - ANNUAL REPORT

Council received the Annual Scrutiny Report from Cllr Galvin, Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee.

38. REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER

written report was received from Cllr Potter, the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People’s Services.

Notice had been received of seven questions on the report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The first three questions were put and answered as follows:

(i) From Cllr Brooks:

“Is the Cabinet Member concerned that over 40% of pupils reported feeling lonely at school and could she explain what is being done to reduce that percentage?”

The Cabinet Member replied:

“This is the percentage of pupils who reported feeling lonely at some point in the month preceding the survey. To put that figure in context, only 8% of primary and 1.5% of secondary pupils reported feeling lonely often. Each school has access to detailed information about the position in their organisation and schools have a variety of different systems in place to support young people.”

In response to a supplementary question asking why more detailed information on this area had not been included in the report, the Cabinet Member replied that it was not possible to include full details of every aspect of her portfolio area in a brief report to Council.

(ii) From Cllr Barton:

”In view of the 2011 bullying survey which shows that over 40% of both primary and secondary school pupils experience some form of bullying on a daily basis, how might you suggest these figures be used to inform policy and practice development?”

The Cabinet Member replied:

“Again, it is probably not true to say that 40% of pupils are bullied daily. This is the cumulative figure incorporating a number of different categories, not all of which are mutually exclusive. In one area, that of cyber-bullying, the figures are relatively low in York. More analysis is needed to determine the reasons behind the statistics.

In response to a supplementary question seeking results from two recent anti-bullying initiatives in schools, the Cabinet Member replied that she would report back on these after contacting those schools where these initiatives had been used. She further highlighted that, overall, 92% had reported feeling safe at school and 84% liked going to school.

In response to a second supplementary question asking why the report had not mentioned the youth support services in connection with cyber-bullying, new integrated services for young people would be included in her next report, once implementation of the new services was complete.

- (iii) From Cllr Aspden:
"Could the Cabinet Member give more information on what she will be doing to work towards preventing future increases in the number of looked after children in York?"

The Cabinet Member replied:

"It is sad that the number of looked after children has increased to 250, and it highlights the importance of early intervention work to support families at an early stage. As mentioned in my report, the new 'Front Door' early intervention service is bringing together a multi-agency team to provide this support. Since its introduction, there have been 2,650 contacts with the service. The picture in York does need to be placed in the national context of a 20% increase in looked after children, against a background of a period of austerity. This situation is likely to be compounded by government changes to the benefits system."

The time limit having expired for this item, written answers were circulated after the meeting to the remaining question as follows:

- (iv) From Cllr Healey
"Firstly I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students, parents and teachers for their collective success in this year's 'A' level and GCSE results. Notwithstanding the City's successes, how many students left school without an A-C in Maths or English?"

Reply

Whilst we have only have provisional data (therefore liable to change when re-grades/re-marks filter through) for 2011 for students results at the end of KS4, we can say that out of the total numbers of KS4 students 1838 (including Danesgate and Applefields) there were 736 students who left school without the full GCSE qualification in English and Maths. It should be noted that 484 students either didn't enter or achieve a A-C in English GCSE, and a further 100 students didn't enter or achieve a A*-C in Maths GCSE. However, that is the picture at the end of KS4 rather than of leaving school. We would expect at least some of those students to be retaking GCSE-level qualifications in their school sixth form or at York College and so the final figure will be slightly better. We achieved 62% pass in 5+ A*-C (including English & Maths) in York in 2011, against a very provisional national result for 2011 of 58%, or a definite national result for 2010*

of 55.2%, so significantly better. Please note these % results do not include Danesgate, as PRUs are not included at national levels.

(v) From Cllr Aspden

“Can the Cabinet Member say what steps she will be taking to ensure the upcoming safeguarding inspection in 2012 continues to meet the high standards of previous inspections?”

Reply

The main area where we under achieved last time was in members’ engagement with the corporate parenting role. I am pleased that we will be asking for agreement to a new Corporate Parenting Forum at the meeting of the Cabinet next week. This will help elected members scrutinise the services that looked after children receive and involve more elected members in this very important role.

(vi) From Cllr Healey

“What new initiatives has the Labour administration put in place since May, or plan to this year, to meet the Cabinet Member’s aspiration to ‘maintain a strong commitment to and focus on early intervention and prevention’.”

Reply

We have commissioned work to look at how we support families and young people in the areas of the city that have higher levels of deprivation in the City. This will be coming to Cabinet early next year. We have also agreed to maintain all 9 children’s centres in the City despite savage cuts to budgets by the Coalition government. I believe that children’s centres have a crucial role in supporting families in difficult times.

(vii) From Cllr Healey

“What’s the latest estimate of the number of children leaving school at 16 who are functionally illiterate?”

Reply

There were only 19 students who didn’t achieve a recognised qualification, or if you say that the pass should be equivalent to of at least 1+ A-G then there were 32 students. In percentage terms this is 99% or 98.3% respectively. That isn’t necessarily a measure of functional literacy, but I am not*

sure exactly what qualifications to use to get that measurement.

39. ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Minutes of the following meetings had been made available for Members to view on the Council's website:

- NHS Foundation Trust – meeting on 23 March 2011
- North Yorkshire Police Authority – meeting on 25 March 2011
- Safer York Partnership – minutes of meeting on 23 May 2011
- Quality Bus Partnership – meeting on 9 June 2011
- York & North Yorkshire Waste Partnership – meeting 30 June 2011
- North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority – meeting on 25 July 2011

No questions had been submitted to representatives on outside bodies.

40. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED: That the appointments to, and changes to membership of, committees, outside bodies and working groups set out in the revised list circulated around the Council Chamber (and attached as an annex to these minutes) be approved.¹

Action Required

4. Ensure that the agreed changes to memberships are implemented FY

41. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

(i) Health and Social Care Bill

It was moved by Cllr Riches and seconded by Cllr Semlyen that:

“Council notes:

- That health funding rose dramatically during 13 years of Labour Government resulting in improved care, treatment and investment in new hospitals;
- The Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government’s promise not to pursue expensive top-down reorganisations of the NHS, and its subsequent planned £2bn top-down reorganisation of the NHS, through the Health and Social Care Bill;
- York District Hospital needing to implement £12-£14m of cuts over the three years 2011-14, and for it to deliver existing services with 5-6% less funding, despite the Government’s commitment to real terms NHS funding increases.

Council expresses dissatisfaction at:

- The removal of the requirement in the above Bill for the Secretary of State for Health to provide a National Health Service;
- The Bill not providing the City’s new Health and Wellbeing Board with the power to ‘sign off’ changes to local health service provision, resulting in an absence of local democratic accountability that the Government claimed to support.

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health, urging him to scrap the Health and Social Care Bill and to undertake meaningful consultation on the future of Health and Social Care, and also to write to the City’s MPs requesting their support for this course of action.”¹

Cllr Cuthbertson then moved, and Cllr Aspden seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“In the first paragraph:

- At the end of the first bullet point, add *‘but also notes that money was not always spent efficiently and that the*

Labour Chaired Public Accounts Committee recently noted that productivity in the NHS actually declined in the last decade.'

- In the third bullet point insert at the beginning, *'Labour's failure to control public spending and the build up of massive debts has left'*
- At the end of the third bullet point, delete *'despite the Government's commitment to real terms NHS funding increases.'* and insert: *'even though the Coalition Government have provided real terms NHS funding increases.'*

In the second paragraph:

- Delete *'Council expresses dissatisfaction at'* and insert *'Council further notes'*
- Delete the first bullet point and replace with: *'That Ministers have given assurances regarding the legal duties of the Secretary of State to provide a National Health Service, but that further clarification is required to reduce concerns.'*
- In the second bullet point, delete *'The Bill not providing'* and insert *'Concerns that the Bill does not provide'*

In the final paragraph:

- delete all from *'to scrap'* to *'Health and social care'* and replace with – *'accept amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill aimed at further clarifying the duties of the Secretary of State and other concerns raised and also writes to the City's MPs requesting their support for this course of action'*.

On being put to the vote, the above amendment was declared LOST.

The original motion was then put to the vote and declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved. ¹

(ii) Renewable Energy

It was moved by Cllr Wiseman and seconded by Cllr Merrett that:

"In order to further CYC's encouragement of energy conservation and the benefits of renewable energy, the Council requests that officers formulate a policy relating to the installation of photovoltaic

panels on roof tops, to assist in particular with the consideration of applications on listed buildings and in conservation areas.”²

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared CARRIED unanimously and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.²

(iii) National Planning Policy Framework

It was moved by Cllr Aspden and seconded by Cllr Reid that:

“Council welcomes the desire of the Government to make planning policy more acceptable by simplifying the National Planning Policy Framework. However, Council is concerned that the proposals undermine the ability of local communities, including Parish Councils, to protect their local areas from inappropriate development.

Council is especially concerned that changes will combine with the recent decision by the Labour Administration to allocate land in the green belt for development as part of the LDF to create a situation whereby developers will feel encouraged to push for additional green belt land to be released.

Council therefore resolves to write to the City’s MPs asking them to work towards changes to the framework to ensure protection of the green belt to strengthen the ability of Local Authorities to ensure that development is appropriate and in keeping with the surrounding area.”

Cllr Levene then moved, and Cllr Merrett seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“In the first line of the first paragraph, after ‘*Council*’, insert the word ‘*cautiously*’.

Insert a new second paragraph, as follows:

‘Council expresses concerns over the conduct of the Planning Minister Greg Clark in appointing three developers to the advisory panel of four experts who drafted the Planning Policy Framework.’

In the second (now the third) paragraph, delete all after ‘*concerned that*’ and substitute:

‘time is given by the Minister to allow Local Authorities to put in place their Local Development Frameworks so as to ensure

protection of Green Belt sites and local green spaces in built up areas'

Insert a new fourth paragraph, as follows:

'Council requests the Minister to reverse his instructions to Planning Inspectors to take the Framework's 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' into consideration on current appeals as final approval of the policy has not taken place and is not due to until April 2012.'

In the third (now the fifth) paragraph:

- After *'asking them to'*, delete *'work towards changes to the framework'* and substitute:
'support the Council's request to the Planning Minister to give time for Local Authorities to adopt their Local Development Frameworks, to withdraw instructions to Planning Inspectors to take the Framework's 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' into consideration on current appeals, and to halt the current process whilst an independent review of the proposed Frameworks is undertaken'
- After *'protection of the green belt'*, insert *and local green spaces, to give priority to Brownfield development and'*

At the end of the motion, add:

'Council requests that the Chief Executive writes similarly to the Planning Minister detailing its concerns.'

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared CARRIED.

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

“Council cautiously welcomes the desire of the Government to make planning policy more acceptable by simplifying the National Planning Policy Framework. However, Council is concerned that the proposals undermine the ability of local communities, including Parish Councils, to protect their local areas from inappropriate development.

Council expresses concerns over the conduct of the Planning Minister Greg Clark in appointing three developers to the advisory panel of four experts who drafted the Planning Policy Framework

Council is especially concerned that time is given by the Minister to allow Local Authorities to put in place their Local Development Frameworks so as to ensure protection of Green Belt sites and local green spaces in built up areas.

Council requests the Minister to reverse his instructions to Planning Inspectors to take the Framework's '*presumption in favour of sustainable development*' into consideration on current appeals as final approval of the policy has not taken place and is not due to until April 2012

Council therefore resolves to write to the City's MPs asking them to support the Council's request to the Planning Minister to give time for Local Authorities to adopt their Local Development Frameworks, to withdraw instructions to Planning Inspectors to take the Framework's '*presumption in favour of sustainable development*' into consideration on current appeals, and to halt the current process whilst an independent review of the proposed Frameworks is undertaken to ensure protection of the green belt and local green spaces, to give priority to Brownfield development and to strengthen the ability of Local Authorities to ensure that development is appropriate and in keeping with the surrounding area.³

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes similarly to the Planning Minister detailing its concerns."³

The motion, as amended, was then put to the vote and declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion, as amended, be approved.³

(iv) Cuts to the Police Service

It was moved by Cllr Williams, and seconded by Cllr Burton, that:

"Council notes recent riots in different cities in England and the Conservative / Liberal Democrat Government's proposed cuts to the police service which will lead to 200 fewer police officers on the streets of York and North Yorkshire.

At a time of Government cuts to the police service, Council believes it is wrong to introduce police commissioners at a cost of £100 million and more as a result of a Government decision to waste money on 42 elected politicians being paid over £120,000 a year. Also, the decision to move the police commissioner election from May to November for purely party political purposes will lead to an additional £25m cost to the taxpayer.

Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary, Theresa May, to urge her to reconsider the introduction of police commissioners at a time of impending cuts to the police service. Citizens in York would prefer to keep police officers on the streets rather than pay for elected politicians to be police commissioners.”

At this point in the meeting, the guillotine fell and the remaining motions and amendments were deemed moved and seconded and were voted on without debate.

Amendment to the above motion from Cllr Orrell

“In paragraph 1, delete ‘200’.

In paragraph 3, after ‘*police service*’, insert: ‘*and to call on her to reimburse North Yorkshire Police for the cost incurred in responding for her call for forces to support other areas in dealing with the riots*’.

At the end of the motion, add:

‘*Council further requests that the Chief Executive write to the York Superintendent congratulating Officers for responding to the Home Secretary’s call to support other Forces during the recent riots and put more Officers on the streets*’.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared CARRIED.

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

“Council notes recent riots in different cities in England and the Conservative / Liberal Democrat Government's proposed cuts to the police service which will lead to fewer police officers on the streets of York and North Yorkshire.

At a time of Government cuts to the police service, Council believes it is wrong to introduce police commissioners at a cost of £100 million and more as a result of a Government decision to waste money on 42 elected politicians being paid over £120,000 a year. Also, the decision to move the police commissioner election from May to November for purely party political purposes will lead to an additional £25m cost to the taxpayer.

Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary, Theresa May, to urge her to reconsider the introduction of police commissioners at a time of impending cuts to the police service and to call on her to reimburse North Yorkshire Police for

the cost incurred in responding to her call for forces to support other areas in dealing with the riots. Citizens in York would prefer to keep police officers on the streets rather than pay for elected politicians to be police commissioners.

Council further requests that the Chief Executive write to the York Superintendent congratulating Officers for responding to the Home Secretary's call to support other Forces during the recent riots and put more Officers on the streets."

The motion, as amended, was then put to the vote and declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion, as amended, be approved.⁴

(v) Member Champions

Motion from Cllr D'Agorne

"This Council calls on the Cabinet to reinstate the positions of member champion for older people, young people, and heritage. In addition, the cycle champion role should be replaced with a 'green travel' champion who will promote sustainable and active travel to include walking, cycling and public transport.

This Council also resolves to amend the Council's constitution so as to ensure that council publicity can feature champions acting in furtherance of their roles."

Cllr Fraser then moved, and Cllr Potter seconded, that the above motion be referred to Cabinet under Standing Order 12.1(b).

On being put to the vote, the motion to refer was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be referred to Cabinet for the purposes of considering an Officer report on the matter.⁵

Action Required

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Write to Secretary of State and York MPs in the terms agreed | LH |
| 2. Take action to compile a policy on installation of photovoltaic panels | DW |
| 3. Write to Planning Minister and York MPs in the terms agreed | LH |
| 4. Write to the Home Secretary in the terms agreed | LH |

5. Schedule a report on Member Champions on the Cabinet AD
Forward Plan for a suitable meeting date

42. QUESTIONS TO THE CABINET LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 11

Seventeen questions had been submitted to the Executive Leader and Executive Members under Standing Order 11.3(a). The guillotine having fallen at this point, Members agreed to receive written answers to their questions, as set out below:

- (i) To the Cabinet Leader, from Cllr Firth
“Can the Leader say whether the Council’s debt position for 2011/12 has increased or decreased since he became Leader?”

Reply

The Council’s debt position for 2011/12 was reduced by the Labour administration by £1.7m in the budget amendment passed by Full Council on 30th June 2011. Conservative and Liberal Democrat councillors disagreed with this move and voted against.

On 30th August 2011 there was agreement by the Group Leaders of the three main parties to purchase land on York Central which is strategically critical for the development of the site for up to £1.5m.

It is disappointing the land which was owned by Yorkshire Forward was not gifted to the Council as it was already in public hands. I contacted Vince Cable MP before Christmas asking for this to be considered and he never responded. If the land was sold to another organisation or held in trust this would have caused difficulties for York being its own master in terms of the local economy.

I was expecting the funds for this purchase to come from the £1.5m capital receipt from the sale of the Kent Street site to the Fire Service. I was alarmed to learn that the budget voted for by Conservative and Liberal Democrat councillors on 24th February 2011 was already predicated on this sale at this price. Therefore without the sale progressing by the Labour administration, the council would have found itself with a £1.5m black hole in the capital programme.

In total, the debt position of the Council is currently at least £200k less than it was when I became Leader of the Council.

However, it is important to note that the capital programme agreed for the coming years before Labour took control of the Council will lead to increases in the debt position of the Council.

- (ii) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Cllr Wiseman:

“What is the cost to the Council tax payers of York for the staffing and funding of Union Officers?”

Reply

The cost for the last full year 2010/11 was £120k (£1.79 per property or £0.61 per resident).

This calculation per household is based on the Council Tax base.

- (iii) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Cllr Galvin:

“Given that the Council has to make cuts and reduce staffing levels, can the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services justify spending Council Tax Payers money on the transfer of two experienced Planning Enforcement Officers to act as Union Representatives whilst still being employed by the Council?”

Reply

(from the Council Leader)

As my Leader portfolio includes staff relations, it is appropriate for me to answer this question. The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (TULR(C)A) which was passed by a Conservative Government gives trade union officials a statutory right to reasonable paid time off from employment to carry out industrial relations duties. The policy of the Council on how payment is made for these duties with a contribution from departmental budgets was set in 2006. Union convenors are elected democratically by their members irrespective of the department they work in. Where time off is agreed for a convener, this is taken off their normal contracted hours. Department management will make the decision on how they cover this loss of work time. The 1.4fte hours in planning enforcement is backfilled for the duration of the secondment to ensure the section is fully staffed.

Since 2010 two union convenors have been deployed from the planning enforcement team on a part-time basis only.

There has been no change to this situation or policy since Labour took control of the Council at the end of May 2011. In the 2010/11 budget a full time planning enforcement officer was made redundant following a budget approved by both Conservative and Liberal Democrat councillors. Job losses are inevitable in local government when the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government is cutting funding at unprecedented levels to councils. In such situations it is more important than ever for employees to have a democratic voice in negotiations over job losses or terms and conditions that are protected in law through legislation passed by a Conservative Government.

(iv) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Cllr Cuthbertson

“How many Freedom of Information requests were received regarding the sale of Union Terrace Car and Coach park? On what dates were they received and how many have not yet been responded to?”

Reply

The Council has received 11 FOI requests on Union Terrace Car and Coach Park. These were received on the following dates:

10th July

11th July (2)

12th July

13th July

14th July

15th July

22nd July

1st August

9th August

9th September

Each request has received a response.

(v) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Cllr Firth

“Can the Cabinet Member say how many businesses she met with at the recent meet the buyer event?”

Reply

The Meet the Buyer event at York Racecourse on 28th September had 170 suppliers in attendance.

I spoke with a lot of suppliers during the event, a number which it would be difficult to put a figure on it. It was a successful event and extremely worthwhile both for suppliers and for the Council.

- (vi) To the Cabinet Member for City Strategy from Cllr Aspden
“Given the recent results of the Fulfordgate residents parking ballot and parking issues associated with the University, will the Cabinet Member commission a report into the interrelated parking issues for the Heslington Lane area of Fulford before the end of the year?”

Reply

Earlier this year I agreed to an experimental parking strategy in the Badger Hill area which has experienced the worst impacts of increased parking issues associated with the development of the University. The results of this experiment will be reported back to me in the new year with a view to developing the strategy further so that it can be considered in other areas that experience similar increased parking problems. The future development of the University is planned over several years and expansion of any parking strategy will inevitably evolve in line with this development. This is likely to be an ongoing issue for some years and the Heslington Lane area will be included as part of these deliberations.

- (vii) To the Cabinet Member for City Strategy from Cllr Hyman
“Can the Cabinet Member say what steps he intends to take to increase the number of companies that allow the use of Taxi Cards?”

Reply

The Taxi Card, available to all York residents with qualifying disabilities, can be used on 104 taxis across the York area. Taxi companies were selected through a free and fair tender process which placed an emphasis on service quality, provision of a high proportion of disabled-accessible vehicles, and drivers trained in disability awareness issues. The Council conducted a tendering process to select the taxi card promoters. The winning bidders were Station Taxis (a large hackney carriage operator), and York Travel (a private-hire operator specialising in transport for the disabled). The

Taxi Card can also be used on York Wheels' car scheme and the Council's Dial & Ride service.

Each driver is taking fewer than ten taxi card bookings per month at present so this would suggest that the supply more than adequately meets current demand.

(viii) To the Cabinet Member for City Strategy from Cllr Cuthbertson

“Given the reports of conflict between vehicles and cycles caused by the layout of the new style speed cushions outside Joseph Rowntree School, can the Cabinet Member say if he intends to allow the cushions to continue to be used in groups of three elsewhere in the City?”

Reply

A typical urban traffic calming layout using cushions is most likely to suit two cushions, however the arrangement is dictated by the width of the carriageway. As soon as the carriageway gets beyond a certain width the gap between the cushion and the kerb and between the two cushions in the centre becomes wide enough to tempt motorists to drive through the gaps to avoid the cushions. This has the potential to cause conflict with cyclists or opposing traffic. On very wide roads the carriageway can be narrowed locally using buildouts to allow two cushions to be placed with the correct spacing. However, cycle bypasses are required in these instances, otherwise cyclists would be forced out into the carriageway. An example of this solution can be found just north of Haxby Road Primary School

Where road widths fall somewhere between being too wide for two cushions and too narrow for buildouts, three speed cushions are generally the preferred solution. There are less than ten locations in the Council area with this arrangement, most of which I am advised operate successfully with no concern raised by road users, however some are more problematic such as outside Joseph Rowntree Secondary School, due to the presence of on-road cycle lanes. The layout at this location has been in place for several years without reported incident but the replacement of the bitmac cushions with precast rubber cushions appears to have changed the way motorists travel through the area. Solutions to remove the conflict including general road narrowing or moving the cycle route off road have been considered by officers but are expensive and have the potential to introduce

new conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians. Pending the availability of funding against other higher priority locations, officers will continue to monitor this site.

- (ix) To the Cabinet Member for City Strategy from Cllr Aspden
"Can the Cabinet Member say when he expects the petition from residents regarding road safety on Selby Road, Fulford to be considered at a Decision Session?"

Reply

A report is in the process of being written in response to the petition request for double white lines. Though it should be noted that the provision of such lines is very strictly regulated by the Department for Transport on visibility grounds.

- (x) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Taylor
"With the proposals under consultation to reduce the provision in our Residential Elderly Persons' Care Homes from 276 to 200 beds, will the Cabinet Member guarantee that, under the new proposals, there will be sufficient beds to meet the needs of York's ageing population?"

Reply

The review seeks to address the growing decline in the number of older people who wish to enter traditional residential care, preferring instead to be supported to retain their independence for as long as possible in their own home or have access to alternative types of housing with support options if they can no longer cope at home. The desire for many is to stay in their own community as long as possible. Current and future needs show a need for more specialist bed provision which the City of York Council lacks and currently is having to seek outside its own provision. The proposed 200 specialist beds are supplemented by the variety of supported living options to be provided within the Lowfields Village concept. A mixture of types of tenure, affordable housing and bungalows to buy on this site can provide for between 50 and 75 older people depending on the final plans for the site. All tenure types would be supported as necessary by the residential facilities and social hub on site.

The investment in expanding the capacity of community support services to help support more older people to retain or regain their independence and prevent admission to residential care or hospital is a joint agenda with health colleagues. This is being funded by Central Government monies (£1.997m) over the next two years to address demographic pressures.

(xi) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Cuthbertson

“Can the Cabinet Member say how many responses to the consultation on Elderly Person’s Homes have been received and how many people attended each of the public meeting events?”

Reply

As of the consultation close on Monday 26th September there had been 1163 responses to the questionnaire and 104 people attended the four public consultation meetings. Further to this, consultation displays were also set up in the foyers of three supermarkets (Monks Cross, Foss Islands and Askham Bar) and at the 50+ Festival Information Fair at the Guildhall. Council staff discussed the review with members of the public and handed out some 300 copies of the consultation questionnaire.

(xii) To the Cabinet Member for Communities & Neighbourhoods from Cllr Ayre

“Given that Quarter 1 figures suggest that existing policies have already increased the recycling rate to the level projected in Labour budget amendment, can the Cabinet Member say what rates she expects to reach once the new smaller recycling boxes have been introduced?”

Reply

A significant number of residents in small flats and smaller terraced properties find the current system of three large boxes difficult to manage when storage is limited and/or they do not generate large amounts of recyclable waste. So we are offering residents who would prefer a more manageable size of container the opportunity to take up the offer. We are currently doing some research on the ground and some focus groups to assess people’s views on recycling and when that is completed, we will be able to

assess demand and what some people may see as barriers to recycling more.

Our focus is very much on making recycling more convenient to residents, which will clearly increase recycling rates.

Exactly how much will become clear once our preliminary research has been completed, when Coun. Ayre will be one of the first to be informed.

(xiii) To the Cabinet Member for Communities & Neighbourhoods from Cllr Aspden

“Will the Cabinet Member agree to take steps to make the planting of trees easier on the Fulford Road corridor in order to help reduce air quality problems?”

Reply

(from the Cabinet Member for City Strategy)

The available scientific research, looking at the impact of planting trees on local air quality, will be reviewed as part of the AQAP development for Fulford. However, it should be noted that tree planting alone is unlikely to offer the levels of air quality improvement required to achieve the Air Quality objectives in all areas of the corridor. Nevertheless, tree planting along the corridor as part of the wider climate change agenda would clearly be beneficial.

Whilst I'm fully supportive of new trees, planting and locating, particularly highway trees, is not always a straightforward issue, and would need careful examination and, where appropriate, consultation with adjacent residents. Proposed highway trees will need to be considered individually against the current policy guidelines.

A general summary is:

- 1. The proposed location of the tree in relation to junctions and sight lines.*
- 2. The width and soil depth of the verge.*
- 3. The location and depth of underground services.*
- 4. General safety, such as the relationship of the proposed tree, its growing height and its location to street lights.*
- 5. The aesthetics of the tree, will it be staked, guarded etc.*

I am willing to consider any intelligent suggestions Councillor Aspden has to achieve the suggested objective.

(xiv) To the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People's Services from Cllr Aspden

“Does the Cabinet Member agree that personal finance education is vital in helping young people succeed in life and will she agree to look at ways in which the Council can encourage all schools in the City to teach these skills?”

Reply

Yes, I have already signed up to the campaign to ensure that young people receive personal finance education as part of the curriculum. There are now more than 83,500 names on the petition.

(xv) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion from Cllr Ayre

“Can the Cabinet Member explain why local residents were not consulted prior to the decision being taken to reclassify Rawcliffe Country Park in the Council’s Events Protocol?”

Reply

The decision to allow the possibility of Rawcliffe Country Park hosting appropriate events was taken in light of suggestions that have been made over a long period of time. There is a real demand for this park to be better used for community benefit. Ward Members are aware of this interest and support the change to allow suitable events to happen. I’m puzzled by the implication that consultation should have taken place on this minor change when the previous administration never undertook any consultation on it, either when they first put it in place or when Cllr Ayre himself made more major revisions.

(xvi) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion from Cllr Ayre

“Will the Cabinet Member confirm whether she intends to pursue a premises licence for Monk Stray?”

Reply

There are no plans to pursue a premises licence for Monk Stray. If there ever should be an intention in the future it would be subject to public consultation in the normal way as I have clearly stated to Cllr Ayre on two previous occasions.

(xvii) To the Cabinet Member for Crime & Community Safety from Cllr Orrell

“Can the Cabinet Member detail some of the key decisions he has taken since May as part of his portfolio responsibilities

and can he say how these decisions have impacted on crime and the perception of crime in the City?”

Reply

Firstly, I would draw attention to the Cabinet having highlighted ‘Build Strong Communities’ as a priority in the Council Plan, which appears elsewhere on the agenda. Safer, Inclusive Communities has been identified as a building block of this priority.

Also, the following matters are amongst the decisions taken since May of this year (with the impact on crime and the perceptions of crime of each decision outlined below each bullet point):

- *To determine the scope of a review of community based enforcement functions*

By maximising the flexibility of the utilisation of the current resources allocated to the various enforcement functions this should enable a more effective and efficient use of these resources and will improve the Council’s performance in this area and enable these resources to be directed to the particular priorities identified at any given time.

- *To delegate to Birmingham City Council the power to investigate cases of illegal money lending in the City of York area and to determine a protocol for such investigations*

This will enable the Council to make use of a specialist team with the skills and resources required to address cases of illegal money lending, a crime which often affects the most needy and vulnerable within our communities.

- *To support proposed changes to the delivery of consumer protection services and to approve a response to the Government’s consultation in this respect, in particular supporting the continuance of a specialist region-wide “Scambuster” Team based in City of York Council*

By responding positively to the Government’s proposed changes to the delivery of the various consumer protection services we seek to ensure the continuity of these services

for the residents of York and to maintain the Council's well-regarded and high performing "Scambusters" pan-regional service, which provides protection, again often for very vulnerable groups, who may be victims of criminal and fraudulent schemes, and to ensure that the perpetrators of such schemes are brought to account.

- *To approve the allocation of this year's Target Hardening fund to specific schemes and to determine the future arrangements for the submission of such scheme proposals and the process for their consideration*

Already a number of the approved schemes, which were proposed through the current process by the Safer York Partnership (SYP), North Yorkshire Police (NYP) and Ward Committees, are being implemented which will combat crime and Anti-social Behaviour and reduce the fear of crime in our communities.

The changes to the arrangements for dealing with this for the future will enhance the process by making it more open and transparent, allowing greater opportunity for community involvement in identifying potential Target Hardening Schemes, and will align the process more clearly to that of the Ward Committees' participatory budgeting process. By increasing awareness of the Target Hardening Fund this will also increase the focus for the potential to undertake measures which will address the incidence of crime and ASB and make the public more aware of the work of the Council and our partners, thus reducing the fear of crime.

- *To approve the process for the development of an annual "Crime Summit", the first to take place next Spring, thus fulfilling another of this Labour Administration's manifesto commitments*

Having fulfilled Labour's commitment to create a senior elected position within the Council to tackle crime and community safety, the annual Crime Summit will provide a further focus for the residents of York, businesses within the City and community and voluntary organisations to meet with the Council, the police, Safer York Partnership and other stakeholders, to identify and address areas of priority in tackling crime, ASB and the fear of crime. It will also meet the obligation for the police and other partners to ensure, and

increase, community engagement in their work in this field. It will also provide an opportunity to share information on the performance of all concerned, and the initiatives being undertaken by all concerned.

Finally, the creation of my post is far cheaper than that of an elected police commissioner that the Government is introducing. Other councils like Conservative-run Hammersmith and Fulham have found the creation of such a post very beneficial to fighting crime.

Cllr D Horton

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.45 pm and concluded at 10.15 pm]

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Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies

Committees/Working Groups

Environment Appeals Committee

To appoint Cllr Healey in place of Cllr Richardson.

Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- To appoint Cllr Gillies in place of Cllr Galvin.
- To appoint Cllr Hodgson as 1st Labour substitute in place of Cllr Semlyen.

Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

To appoint Cllr Jeffries as 2nd Labour substitute in place of Cllr Fitzpatrick, who is now a full member of the Committee.

Staffing Matters & Urgency Committee

To note that, due to a mistake on the list approved at Annual Council, Cllr Simpson-Laing was incorrectly appointed as Vice-Chair of the above committee and is in fact a substitute on the committee.

Outside Bodies

Local Authority Commission on Asylum and Migration (LACAM)

To appoint Cllr Crisp

Consultation Meetings with looked After Children “Show Me That I Matter”.

To appoint Cllr Brooks in place of Cllr Wiseman.

Local Government Information Unit

To note that this body's constitution now only requires one nomination rather than two and to confirm the appointment of Cllr Alexander as the one representative and Cllr Merrett as substitute.

Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)

To appoint Cllrs Crisp and Looker

Trustee of York Citizens' Advice Bureau

To appoint Cllr Jeffries in place of Cllr Crisp



Councillor James Alexander
Labour Leader of City of York Council
Report to Full Council – December 2011

Community Covenant

I am very proud that after working with Brigadier Bibby, City of York Council is now signing up to a Community Covenant. This shows the importance this city places on our military personnel and supporting staff.

The Conservative Liberal-Democrat Government will be bringing serving personnel based in Germany back to the UK. There will be reductions in military personnel and supporting staff. There is an expected increase in those serving in the reserves. All of which will be challenging for the council and for the country at large.

Tourism Collaboration

We have committed City of York Council to a collaborative agreement with Blackpool Council. We are the two most popular visitor destinations in the north of England. Blackpool attracts 11m visitors per annum and York attracts 7.1m. The collaboration will see us sharing expertise and contacts in the organising of continental markets. In return, City of York Council will receive lighting expertise, labour and infrastructure at cost. This includes access to bespoke lighting equipment, and LED lighting with low electricity costs. This will help make the small budget of Illuminating York go further and we believe there are opportunities surrounding York's Christmas lights, lighting that was allowed to deteriorate under the previous Liberal Democrat administration.

This supports Labour's manifesto pledge to make York a gateway to Yorkshire.

Organisational Review

I asked the Chief Executive for a further Organisational Review following an early assessment of how the revised staffing structure is working. Clearly more savings are required as a result of the next tranche of Government cuts due to be passed down to local councils, and we have no choice but to become a leaner council.

The changes being proposed at Cabinet in December provide the opportunity to liberate middle management to get on with their jobs and to be more creative in the challenges we face, a principle I fully support. It will save in the region of £200k - £250k.

Homelessness

It is extremely alarming that York has seen a 41% increase in homelessness in the past year. Behind every number is a person and a family. Only Hambleton and Scarborough had a larger increase in the region. This is because York has the highest rents in Yorkshire and as people lose their jobs they can no longer afford their rent. Changes brought in since the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats formed the Government have seen 800 residents in York losing on average £40 a month Housing Benefit. This will have contributed to the increase in homelessness.

As York has the highest rents in Yorkshire, and indeed the highest rents in almost all areas north of London, Labour is calling on the Government to make York a special case when it comes to Government proposals to regionally cap Housing Benefit. We will see increasing homelessness in York under this Government. Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in Government want to see 1,950 of York's poorest families receiving a further £50 a month less in Housing Benefit whilst wanting those in council and housing association properties to increase their rent payments to an average of £520 a month. Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in Government are taking decisions that will result in more people living on the streets of York, and only Labour locally is fighting against this. The Labour Council is doing all it can to mitigate the worst of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat proposals.

Free City Centre Wi-Fi

The pilot scheme for St Helen's Square and Coney Street was officially launched on the Monday of Business Week by Chi Onwurah, a Shadow Business, Innovation and Skills Minister. The pilot cost has been found from within existing budgets.

It is a boost to the national and international reputation of York as a forward thinking and dynamic city. The scheme has been popular with visitors, shoppers and businesses. We are currently consulting on whether this scheme should be extended to most of the city centre.

If this consultation is successful we will be looking towards possible capital and revenue streams to extend the service.

Figures show one week after the launch on 14th November we had 66,928 hits on the home page and 338 individual users.

This contributes towards our manifesto pledge to support business.

Broadband Connectivity

City of York Council will be working in collaboration with Open Reach to ensure York is one of a few national centres for super-fast broadband. Open Reach share in our

vision of an historic city with a modern future. Our aim is to ensure 95% connectivity by 2014.

We are also in talks with other possible infrastructure providers, including BDUK for rural broadband.

This will also contribute towards our manifesto pledge to support business.

Unemployment

During Business Week I accompanied Jon Trickett, shadow Cabinet Office Minister to Future Prospects to discuss issues surrounding unemployment in York and the valuable work Future Prospects does in helping people get into work and training. The people I spoke to were all aged around 50 and I gained the impression that they felt their age made it difficult for them to find new employment. This affects morale, confidence and the financial stability of the person and their immediate family.

The Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government needs to stimulate demand to improve consumer confidence and get the economy moving again. The Government needs to reduce VAT, and have a plan B on the economy.

Annual Business Conference and Business Week

Labour has a manifesto pledge to hold an annual business conference. The first of which was held during Business Week on 18th November at FERA at Sand Hutton. The event was sponsored by Langleys. At the event I launched City of York Council's internationalisation strategy for consultation. Labour believes York is one of the best cities in the world, but this message needs to spread more widely internationally to boost our reputation and economic growth.

The feedback from the session has been very positive and I am pleased it opened up our business community to more than the usual faces. I am keen that this openness continues and there is reform of the Business Forum to ensure this happens.

This event was another manifesto pledge delivered by Labour.

Business Week was very successful and Nick Eggleton and his team should be commended for their work. Council officers also performed extremely well under considerable pressure. I am informed there were more business week events in York during this week than many other regions of the UK. York was also nominated for 13 entrepreneurial awards.

Business Week ended with a round table discussion on the economy in York with Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls.

York's Independent Fairness Commission

The independent York Fairness Commission has made its recommendations to the Cabinet in respect of the forthcoming council budget. We are currently considering these recommendations that have come out of the Commission's research, and from consultation with the public and representative organisations.

The creation of the Fairness Commission was a manifesto pledge honoured by Labour.

Assisted Waste Collection Service

Labour pledged to advertise this scheme for elderly residents to have assistance when presenting their waste for collection. Labour is ensuring this service is advertised with council tax bills when they are issued in the new year.

This is another manifesto pledge delivered by Labour.

Open Council

For the first time this council will hold a public drop-in session for residents and businesses to discuss the forthcoming budget. This face-to-face session will be in addition to the work of the York Fairness Commission, online consultation and a public meeting with businesses. We are also this year holding a public meeting with the voluntary sector.

Since the local elections in May unsuccessful Liberal Democrat candidates have put forward a number of freedom of information requests for political purposes. These include Nick Love who stood unsuccessfully in Holgate, Jonathan Lancaster who stood unsuccessfully in Haxby and Wiggington and Christopher Twells, currently the Chair of the University of York Liberal Democrats and an agent for the party in May.

Liberal Democrat councillors can contact me directly if they would like information or they can even use council questions as an avenue for a more public response. I believe the public would be alarmed to realise that their political point scoring has cost City of York Council an estimated £900 since May. I don't believe this a good use of public money and I would appeal to them to use the other avenues I have mentioned to acquire the information they seek. I've been surprised that Liberal Democrats still find a way to waste public money even after leaving office.

Association of West Yorkshire Authorities (AWYA)

I was the first council leader to attend a meeting of AWYA on 24th November, to discuss passenger transport in particular. The electrification of the transpennine route from Manchester to York was discussed and I'm pleased that this scheme is now out in the public domain. We heard from Sir Richard Leese and Sir Howard Bernstein of Manchester City Council on how public transport has worked for residents in Greater Manchester. I'm confident that any announcement on the electrification of this line will be a boost to economic growth in York.

Free Parking Initiative

I'm delighted to have been able to announce free parking in all council-run car parks for Boxing Day. The £10k bill for this will be funded through money saved from industrial action. The remainder of the money saved will be ploughed into protecting front-line services for vulnerable residents, both young and elderly.

We listened to the call made by the Retail Strategy Group recently for free parking on Boxing Day, and acted.

Conservatives have suggested free parking should apply for the whole of January, though to date have been unable to determine how they would fund such a scheme.

They would need to demonstrate which cuts they would seek to make to convince the public their calls are not merely attempts to grab a quick headline, but based on responsible decision-making and sensible calculations.

It has been six months of the Labour administration and already we are making a difference. We are honouring our manifesto pledges. We said before the election York deserves better and after winning, we are delivering it.

Councillor James Alexander
Labour Leader of City of York Council
29th November, 2011

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	CABINET
DATE	1 NOVEMBER 2011
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS ALEXANDER (CHAIR), CRISP, FRASER (NOT PRESENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS 1 & 2 - MINUTES 54 & 56 REFER) , GUNNELL, LOOKER, MERRETT, POTTER (NOT PRESENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS 6-10; MINUTES 59-65 REFER) AND SIMPSON-LAING (VICE-CHAIR)
IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLORS BARNES, FITZPATRICK AND WARTERS

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

64. CAPITAL PROGRAMME - MONITOR 2

[See also under Part A Minutes]

Members considered a report which informed them of the likely out-turn position of the Council's 2011/12 Capital Programme, based upon the spend profile and information to September 2011, and sought approval for slippage resulting from changes to the programme.

The report detailed changes that would result in a revised programme of £72.122m – a net increase of £0.587m on the current approved programme of £71.535m, made up of:

- Adjustments to schemes increasing expenditure by £1.708m
- Net re-profiling of -£1.121m of schemes from future years to the current year.

There had been £23.94m capital spend up to the end of September, representing 33.3%% of the revised budget.

Budget variances in each portfolio area were summarised in Table 2 at paragraph 5 of the report and detailed in paragraphs 8-16. They included the re-profiling and adjustment of budgets in relation to Highway Resurfacing & Reconstruction (£150k), York Pools Strategy (£200k), the Local Transport Plan programme (£158k), the Administrative Accommodation project

(£930k) and the IT Development Plan (£41k). The addition of a further £1.550m to the programme for the purchase of land to bring forward developments at York Central had already been approved by the Staffing Matters & Urgency Committee.

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the following net adjustments to the capital programme, as detailed in the report and Annex A:

- an increase of £0.587k in 2011/12
- an increase, as a result of re-profiling, of £1.121m in 2012/13

REASON: To enable the effective management and monitoring of the Council's capital programme.

65. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITOR 2 MID YEAR REVIEW AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2011/12

[See also under Part A Minutes]

Members considered a report which provided an update on the Council's treasury management activities for the first six months of the 2011/12 financial year, in compliance with statutory requirements. It also recommended changes to the 2011/12 Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) and Prudential Indicators, in the light of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reform changes.

The report set out details of treasury management performance against the current national background of a stagnating economy, falling employment and rising inflation. It was noted that investments had remained within the Council's approved credit limits and that investment activity had earned an interest rate return of 1.5%, which was higher than the average London Inter-Bank Deposit rate and base rate for the period. Loans taken in 2011/12 were below the original target of 5%; the target rate at this stage for the remainder of the year was 4.3%.

Reform of the HRA subsidy arrangements was expected to take place on 28 March 2012. It would involve the Council paying £112m to the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG), removing the obligation to make annual payments to the CLG through the housing subsidy system. This payment would increase the Council's level of borrowing,

requiring approval of a revised borrowing limit as a change to the Prudential Indicators included in the TMSS approved by Council in February 2011.

RECOMMENDED: That Council:

- (i) Approve the changes to the Prudential Indicators in the light of the HRA reform; specifically, the Authorised Borrowing Limit at £347m.
- (ii) Note that the HRA reform is to be approved by the Government White Paper in November 2011, and that the payment of £112m is to be made to the CLG on 28 March 2012.
- (iii) Note the expected impact on the capital and treasury activities of the HRA reform.

REASON: To ensure the inclusion of the effects of the HRA reform on treasury management activities.

J Alexander, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.00 pm].

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	STAFFING MATTERS & URGENCY COMMITTEE
DATE	7 NOVEMBER 2011
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS ALEXANDER (CHAIR), GUNNELL (EXCEPT MINUTE ITEM 67), FRASER, RUNCIMAN AND GILLIES

PART B-MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

68. COMMUNITY COVENANT

Members received a report which asked them to agree to the establishment of a Community Covenant with local armed forces subject to the approval of Council.

Officers expanded on the process of the establishment of the Community Covenant and explained that;

- Following approval by this Committee, the Covenant would then be considered by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), who would be expected to approve it.
- That an official 'signing' of the Covenant will be arranged by the MOD, which will include the three main services involved; the three armed forces, the Council and the York Council for Voluntary Services (CVS).
- That a Covenant Partnership would be set up consisting of representatives from the armed forces, the Council and York CVS in the first instance.
- That the Council will then encourage a wide range of further organisations to sign up to the Covenant and become part of the Covenant Partnership.
- That grant funding from the MOD will be available for those organisations who sign up to the Covenant Partnership to bid for.

In response to the comments raised by Ken Beavan, under Public Participation (Minute Item 66) Members stated that they wished for York Royal British Legion to be a primary signatory to the Community Covenant alongside the aforementioned partners.

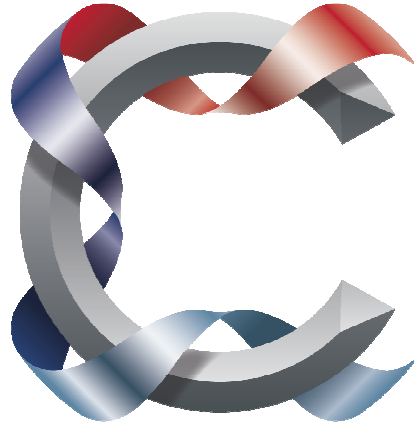
Councillor Alexander stated that leaders across the Yorkshire and Humber area have agreed to enter into covenants. Further discussion will take place regarding how the Council will be represented on the partnership before the next Council meeting.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) That Council be asked to endorse the views of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee, in supporting a community covenant, and pledge its support to establish a Community Covenant.
- (ii) That Council authorise the Chief Executive to hold discussions with representatives of our local armed forces to progress establishing a covenant.

REASON: To support relationships between the people of York and local armed forces.

Councillor J Alexander, Chair
[The meeting started at 1.00 pm and finished at 1.25 pm].



Community Covenant

An Armed Forces Community Covenant

Between

The Civilian Community of York

And

The Armed Forces Community in the City of York

**We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to honour the
Armed Forces Community Covenant**

Signatories

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces
Community

Signed on behalf of City of York
Council

Date:

Date:

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces
Community

Signed on behalf of York Council for
Voluntary Service

Date:

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces
Community

Date:

Signatories

Section 1: Participants

- 1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between the serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in York and the civilian community of York.

Section 2: Principles of The Armed Forces Community Covenant

- 2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.
- 2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in York and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel, their families and widow(er)s in York.
- 2.3 For the Civilian Community of York, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work.
- 2.4 For the Armed Forces community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces community to help their local community.

Section 3: Objectives and General Intentions

- 3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant complements the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community.
- 3.2 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

3.3 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

Section 4: Review

4.1 A specific set of measures, pertinent to York, to take forward the principles within the Covenant will be agreed by the signatories. At least once a year, the signatories will review the measures that they are taking to implement the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant and consider if further actions would be helpful.

The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of
the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial

services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

Scrutiny Report to Council December 2011

Report of the Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee

1. This report is submitted by the Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC), in accordance with the constitutional requirements set out in Standing Order 4.3(l) to update Council on scrutiny work during the period of activity since the last Council meeting and to set out any recommendations such as may be made to Council in relation to that work.

Update on Scrutiny Work Planning

2. In its primary role of coordinating and managing collective scrutiny business, Scrutiny Management Committee led on a scrutiny work planning event held in July 2011 involving all Cabinet, Scrutiny members and Chief Officers. The event resulted in each of the scrutiny committees identifying a number of topics for review this municipal year, for which there was a corporate need and collective support.
3. At the last meeting of Council in October 2011, the Annual Scrutiny Report for 2010-2011 was presented, and therefore this report provides the first update on the work of the individual standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees this municipal year.

Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC)

4. At its meeting on 28 November, 2011, SMC agreed to recommend a small support budget for undertaking scrutiny reviews to Cabinet. Council will recall removing this budget entirely in 2011/12 as part of the overall budget set in February 2011. In accordance with its constitutional role to consider what budget might be appropriate for scrutiny in this regard, on balance and taking account of the present economic circumstances, SMC felt that a small budget of £5k would be invaluable in enabling scrutiny to perform more successfully. It is therefore making a recommendation to Budget Cabinet in February 2012 for scrutiny to be reprovided with this small support budget for its work.
5. At this same meeting, SMC received a report on the ongoing regional work activity in which the Scrutiny Team and SMC Chair have been involved. This included a Members Regional Scrutiny Network event held in the Guildhall, York on Friday 2 December 2011, focussing in particular on the implications of the Localism Bill and the Health &

Social Care Bill. As on many previous occasions, Councillor Galvin, as Chair of SMC had been asked to introduce and chair the event.

Standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees

4. Each of the standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees has received two quarterly finance and performance monitoring reports since the start of this municipal year.
5. The five standing overview & scrutiny committees each held a meeting before the work planning event in July 2011 to:
 - introduce their new members to the committee's remit and terms of reference;
 - receive presentations from the relevant Assistant Directors on ongoing work within directorates and future planned work;
 - meet with the appropriate Cabinet Members to discuss with them their priorities and challenges for the year ahead
6. **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have agreed to carry out scrutiny reviews on Anti-social Behaviour and Domestic Waste Collection & Recycling, and work on each of these is ongoing. The Committee has formed a Task Group to carry out the ASB Review, and have received a briefing on a recent city-wide consultation on recycling in support of their Waste review.
7. In addition, over a period of 4 meetings the committee has received a number of Safer York Partnership (SYP) and North Yorkshire Police performance reports. The Committee has looked at the restructure of North Yorkshire Police (NYP) and the proposals for restructuring Community Safety within NYP. It has also received presentations on the restructure of CANS and the roles supporting the SYP, and the role of the PCT within SYP. Finally, in October 2011 the Committee considered a final update on a recent regional CCTV shared services consultation which resulted in them agreeing not to proceed with a review of CCTV across the city.
8. **Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have agreed to carry out scrutiny reviews on CYC Sickness Absence Management, and the Future Use of the Guildhall. Having received a briefing on staff sickness levels, a Task Group was formed to identify an appropriate remit for the Sickness Absence Management and this was subsequently agreed by the full committee. The Task Group is now progressing with work on the review.

9. The Committee has also received updates on the implementation of the approved recommendations arising from their previous scrutiny reviews on CYC Apprenticeships and Customer Complaints.
10. **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have agreed to carry out scrutiny reviews on Primary School Demographics, Outcomes for 'Looked After' Children, and Public Parks. In addition, a further topic on the York Museums Trust is currently under consideration following its submission by Cllr Watson.
11. Work has commenced on the Demographics review, focusing on the Local Authority's oversubscription criteria and school travel policies. The Committee has held a number of information gathering sessions and met with a number of Head Teachers.
12. Outside of their review work, the committee has received a performance update from the York Theatre Royal and taken a tour of the Theatre and its new facilities within the De Grey Buildings. It has also received a detailed performance update on the York Museums Trust partnership delivery plan. Finally, the committee has signed off a number of fully implemented recommendations arising from their previous scrutiny reviews on the Cultural Quarter and Casual Play, and requested a further update on the remaining recommendations in six months time.
13. **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has agreed to carry out a review on 'Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector'. The Committee has received information to help them begin to scope the review and a small Task Group is being formed to undertake the review. A date is currently being sought for their first meeting.
14. In addition to this the Committee has given consideration to an update report on the implementation of recommendations arising from their previous scrutiny review on Newgate Market. They have also received two six monthly updates on major transport initiatives and issues and major developments within the city.
15. The Committee has also received an update report in relation to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP). As part of this report the Committee received a presentation from the Chief Operating Officer at the York & North Yorkshire LEP. The Committee requested a further report be brought to them in six months time and this would also include information on the Leeds City Region LEP.
16. **Health Scrutiny Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have agreed to carry out a review on 'End of Life Care – the use and effectiveness of Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR)' forms. The

Committee are undertaking the review as a whole rather than as a small Task Group and have met once to scope the review. Key health partners have been invited to a future meeting to present some background information and a series of evidence gathering sessions are currently being planned for early in the New Year.

17. In addition to this the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee has agreed to monitor the procurement of the Health Watch contract and receive regular updates on progress.
18. The Committee are in regular contact with key health partners in the city and have recently spoken to Yorkshire Ambulance Service about a reported increase in complaints received and to York Hospital and the Primary Care Trust regarding Transforming Community Services.
19. Keeping up to date with news on NHS reforms has been a priority alongside understanding the work of the Transition Board and the Terms of Reference for the Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board.
20. And finally this Committee has had a representative (Councillor Wiseman) on the Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (being administered in Leeds) looking into proposals to change the provision of Children's Cardiac Services. Councillor Wiseman has kept the Committee up to date on the work being undertaken in relation to this.
21. **City Centre Access Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee** – Councillor Gillies had submitted this topic originally allocated to the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee. After consideration it was decided that it would be more appropriate to form an ad hoc Committee to undertake this review and nominations were sought on the basis of interest in the topic. The Ad Hoc Committee have met to scope the review and have also visited some of the major pinch points in accessing the city centre. Further meetings are planned to gather evidence from the Police and Council enforcement officers.

Councillor John Galvin
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee



Council

8 December 2011

Report of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

Corporate Services – Progress Update

Summary

1. As Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, I am pleased to present an update on progress within my portfolio. As the electorate has chosen to change the administration – I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the words from my Lib Dem predecessor for Corporate Services – ‘The future looks challenging for all’. (Ref council report October 2011.)
2. How true these words are. Residents, businesses and public servants in York are all facing a wide range of complex challenges. The national financial climate is affecting all sectors of the economy. The effect of central government cuts to Local Authorities is beginning to bite. We are also seeing an ideological and unfair shift in the welfare state that presents a threat to the most vulnerable in our society.
3. Against this backdrop, it has been critical that I, as the new Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, hit the ground running representing York’s electorate and ensuring delivery of their priorities. My portfolio is critical for setting the foundations for success across the Council. Since May, I have been working with officers to shape the strategic objectives of the organisation; encapsulated in the Council Plan. I have also been working to build strong foundations across HR, Finance, Procurement and other support services to ensure that front line staff are properly supported both now and in the future.
4. There is much more that could have been added to this report and I am grateful for the work officers have done. In future updates I hope to highlight other work areas within my portfolio.

Key Achievements

- 2012/13 and 2013/14 Budget Strategy set;
- Robust programme to achieve £21m of savings in 2011/12;
- On track to deliver Capital Programme schemes totalling £72m in 2011/12;
- Council Plan; four year objectives for CYC;
- City Plan; four year partnership objectives for York;
- Successful NESTA Bid;
- New Media Protocol;
- Improved branding;
- More Social Media;
- Creation of the Local Authority Trading Company;
- Increase in Council Tax collection by £200k;
- New Report it/Do it On Line services;
- Free Public WiFi;
- Procurement Strategy;
- West Offices build on track and to budget
- Trade Unions agreed to management proposals on terms and conditions.

Portfolio Summaries

5. This section sets out the progress being made across key services and functions:

Portfolio Part One - Financial Services

Budget Preparation

6. Work continues on the development of the financial strategy that will be presented to Council in February. Regular update meetings have taken place between Officers and Members to enable information to be shared on budget options, and ultimately ensure that difficult decisions are taken in the full knowledge of the risks/pressures inherent in each area of activity.
7. In December and January an extensive programme of budget consultation will take place with stakeholders. Members will be holding meetings with the general public, the business community and representatives from the Voluntary Sector to ensure as many

individuals and groups have the opportunity to contribute to the debate on the Council's budget and priorities.

8. Again, an on-line consultation tool will be available to allow individuals to propose their own strategies to balance the Council's budget. Feedback from all these various consultation streams will be fed back to Cabinet and complement the findings of the Fairness Commission.

Budget Monitoring

9. Members will be aware that the current year's budget was set against a background of £21m of savings – the most challenging programme of financial reductions for a generation.
10. Latest monitoring has identified that significant progress has been made towards the achievement of financial targets. There are some areas of challenge, but robust mitigation strategies are being developed to ensure that the Council operates within budget.

11. The Capital programme continues to be monitored closely and is on track to deliver a wide range of schemes across the city totalling £72m.

Financial Reporting

12. The 2010/11 Statement of Accounts received an unqualified opinion from the Audit Commission.

Internal Audit/Fraud/Information Governance

13. The Council's shared service with NYCC for Internal Audit (Veritau Ltd) continues to operate extremely successfully. It is hoped that very shortly Veritau will extend its operation through the provision of internal audit work to a group of North Yorkshire District Councils (known as the North Yorkshire Audit Partnership) via a subsidiary company to be known as Veritau – North Yorkshire Limited (VNY).
14. So far this year (to 31 October) the team has received and tracked 479 Freedom of Information requests have been received and tracked, which is an increase from 378 in the same period last year (a 27% increase).

Portfolio Part Two -Policy Team

15. Since May, the Policy Team has concentrated on three key objectives

- Developing a four year vision for the Council's priorities; The Council Plan;
- Developing proposals for a more focused work programme for the WOW Partnership; The City Plan;
- Developing a strategic policy function, shaping the Council's response to emerging Welfare, Health and Community legislation.

Council Plan

16. In October, Council approved the Council Plan. This document set out the priorities for City of York Council over the next four years. It reflected the commitments made by the Cabinet in their election manifesto set alongside wider Council objectives. The Council Plan also identified the core capabilities that were required of individuals and teams in order to deliver the plan. These capabilities will be developed in part through the Workforce Development Strategy.

City Plan

17. The WOW Partnership has a 25 year vision now known as the Strategy for York. Since May, the Policy Team has been working with the partnership to prioritise the work programme that supports this strategy. This is so that reduced public sector resources can be targeted at the most critical and important activities. The prioritised work programme, focused on the city economy, environment and communities is known as the City Plan and was agreed at the WOW Board in October. Work on the appropriate governance structures continues.

Innovation

18. The Policy Team developed CYC's bid for Nesta funding. Nesta is a Government supported organisation tasked with developing more innovative ways of delivering Council services. CYC teamed up with Science City York to develop a bid based on a technique known as 'open innovation'. In simple terms this means opening up problem solving to interested parties in the city and beyond on the basis of incentives. Over 160 applications were received and CYC is one of just 17 to be successful. The Policy Team is working with Nesta to try and secure CYC a position in the top 5 Councils which would mean that funding would be provided to roll out the model nationally.

Portfolio Part Three - Communications Team

19. The communications team has concentrated on three key objectives since May.
- Establishment of a new Media Protocol;
 - Better coordination of Project Communications;
 - Improved standardisation and branding.

Media Protocol

20. The Communications Team worked with Cabinet to establish a new media protocol which would make Leader and Cabinet decision making, more transparent to residents.

Project Coordination

21. The Communications Team has been working with 27 projects to develop more effective communication plans and strategies. This is to ensure that residents and businesses are receiving the information they need about changes in the city and new services that may be available.

Improved Standardisation and Branding

22. Since May, the Communications Team has improved the accessibility of the Council's website. It has also standardised the font size on external communications in direct response to requests from groups representing older people and those with disabilities. Standard out of office messages and email signatures have been introduced to improve customer services. Further work will be done to standardise font types.

Social Media

23. The Council's Facebook and Twitter sites go from strength to strength. Since May over 2500 followers have been added to the Twitter site and the number of customers using the CYC Facebook site continues to grow. Further sites will be rolled out across wards and more emphasis will be placed on Social Media as a way to communicate with younger people in particular.

Portfolio Part Four – Local Authority Trading Company

24. CBSS are leading on the development of the new local authority trading company – City of York Trading (CYT) which is being developed with a view to starting to trade some of our services in a professional and effective manner.

25. The Cabinet approved the creation of the company in September and it has now formally been created. The company has attracted significant interest across many areas of the Council, who are considering how they can utilise the opportunities the company brings including delivering savings for the Council and creating exciting new service delivery.

Portfolio Part Five – Legal Services

26. The legal team are providing legal support and advice right across the council. This includes advising and supporting Directorates with significant amounts of new legislation and helping with their responses. Examples include the transfer of public health responsibilities, arrangements for Police Commissioners and Police and Crime Panels and the Localism Act including, of course, significant changes to the Standards Regime.
27. There are particular challenges for the social care lawyers who are dealing with high numbers of care proceedings as well as increasing demands for support on adult social care matters. Demands for legal support on procurement matters have also increased and this looks set to be an area where demand will only increase further as the Council looks to alternative methods of service delivery.

Portfolio Part Six – Transactional Services

28. During 2011 year has seen the consolidation of income and transactional services across the council. The further key objectives for 2011/12 are:
- A further increase in Council Tax income collection of £200K
 - Implementation of Adults Charging Policy
 - Implementation of prepaid cards
 - Increase take up of Direct Debit in Council Tax
 - Increased Advertising income
 - Reduce Insurance costs by £80K
 - Bankruptcy action
 - Pod Casts for City Walls
 - The performance of Creditors in processing all invoices within 28 days remains at approximately 96%.

- In order to continue to develop strong financial management across the Council, an updated version of the Council's Financial Regulations was issued in October.

Portfolio Part Seven - ICT

Do it/report it online

29. ICT designed and developed the Customer Self Service Do it/Report it on line portal that allows Customers to report and track the progress of their case online or check their information on line such as their Council Tax bill. This has both increased and improved the number of services currently available online without having to visit, call or email the council.
30. Further phased projects to expand the range of services that can be accessed through this portal are scheduled for 2011/2012 & 2012/2013 and the next phase scheduled for the Winter of 2011 include further Council Tax Services, Car Parking and Registrar Services.

Improved Customer internet access through public wi-fi at Branch Libraries, Energise and as part of the Coney Street and St Helens Square Trial

31. Access to the internet through public wi-fi has also been made available from York Energise towards the West of our City. In addition free public Wi-Fi has been provided within Coney Street and St Helens Square as part of the City Centre trial.

Multi Functional Devices (MFD's)

32. The roll out of Multi Functional Devices (MFD's) continues and with a significant reduction in paper usage alongside the flexibility it provides users.

Mobile phones/Devices

33. ICT have secured a more flexible and cost effective mobile phone contract for users of mobile phones and devices. This will support more flexible working styles.

Improving residential and commercial broad band services

34. York is included within the North Yorkshire broad band bid that has recently secured £17.8 from Government. ICT are working with North Yorkshire County Council and BDUK to clarify how the

funding can be drawn down to extend broad band coverage in rural parts of the city.

Portfolio Part Eight - Procurement

35. Work within procurement is now moving at a pace towards achieving the objectives of reduced cost whilst at the same time being socially responsible and contributing to the Council's sustainability targets.
36. The draft strategy is currently under review and will be presented to Cabinet in January 2012.

New supplier contract management and tendering system

37. The new system will be live by January 2012. Work has been done to bring together information from Financial Management System (FMS) and the existing contract management system (SCMS) to ensure that the Council captures supplier information. This will provide better analysis of spend and the patterns of spending.

Procurement Activity Plan (PAP)

38. The Commercial Procurement Managers are working with each directorate to agree the priorities for next year and agree a 12-18 month work plan. This will enable much better management of procurement activity.

Portfolio Part Nine – Property Services

39. A significant amount has been done by officers in my area and therefore I wish to acknowledge that work here.

West Offices

40. The construction work began in January 2011. The project is running to time and within budget. The building is on schedule to be handed over to the council at the end of September 2012. Then there will follow a two month period where the council will install the IT servers, the furniture and storage, equip the hub areas and business cafe, equip the meeting rooms and prove all the building systems.
41. The staff moves are scheduled to occur over the period December 2012 through February 2013.
42. The detailed space planning is now taking place until early March 2012. Plans are being worked up with all service areas and staff.

Comments received back will be fed into the next stage of the space planning process.

Procurement for the new HQ

43. Procurement activity relating to the new accommodation is under way and will continue throughout the project. Examples include furniture, removals, clearances and catering.

Portfolio Part Ten – HR & Customer Services

Terms & Conditions Review

- Terms and conditions negotiations with Trade Unions have concluded and Trade Unions agreed to management's proposals on terms and conditions.
- Work continues on the finalisation of flexible and smart working policies for discussion and agreement with unions ahead of planning for the office moves and implementation of the different workstyles.

I-trent progress

44. Phase 1 of the implementation of the council's new HR system is drawing to a close. The final pay from Delphi will be November 2011, with the first pay from I-trent in December 2011.

Workforce Strategy and Customer Strategy

45. These are being developed to meet the delivery of the core competencies in the Council Plan to underpin the delivery of our priorities. We are evolving our Customer Strategy with a full focus on customer need and the development of a full range of methods to access our services to meet those needs, we will also develop clear and consistent customer care skills, standards and behaviours.
46. Those skills and behaviours will also feature within a comprehensive approach to skills, competencies and behaviours development for our 21st century workforce. This approach will be enshrined in the Workforce Strategy.
47. Both of these important documents will be presented to Cabinet in the New Year and the action plans are being finalised now, with

timescales and senior level monitoring arrangements to ensure their effective delivery.

Customer Service Highlights

48. Headlines in terms of achievements against customer service targets for October 2011 include:

- 12,000 calls handled in October, including over 2000 in Benefits
- 5000 visitors to reception areas
- 63% increase in council tax call volumes, reasons are being explored and underlying causes being identified/addressed
- Winter maintenance rota in place from end October until end February.
- Tightened procedures and cover for Hate/Crime reporting.
- Average year to date Benefits processing is 16 days;
- Recruiting to a number of vacancies including 2 apprentices.
- Developing further CMetrix customer satisfaction reporting and feedback to all service areas.
- Proactive promotion to increase uptake of customer use of CMetrix tool in face to face areas.
- Up-skilling of face to face team in email handling, council tax and housing processes continues.
- Work continues to bring Blue Badge applications into F2F.
- Consultation is underway with residents, staff and equalities groups around a range of proposals to improve the facilities to access housing and benefits in Acomb and across the city as a whole. Options include mixed use of a bus which will also provide library services in all areas of the city in addition to services provided on different days in a range of council owned facilities across Acomb. Other forms of access will also be explored.
- Work continues on the design of the Customer Centre in West Offices, including space planning for staff and customer numbers/flow.
- The core of the central Feedback team has been established in the York Customer Centre to start to establish systems to

manage all complaints, feedback and Freedom of Information requests.

Apprentices

49. The Council has played a significant role in the 100 in 100 campaign to increase the number of apprentices working in the City's public and private sector. In total, over 200 apprenticeships have been offered in York. CYC publicised 36 apprenticeships, 2 had previously been recruited to in the workforce development unit of ACE and 34 were left to fill through the corporate scheme. To date we have recruited 25 apprentices and have 9 business admin vacancies remaining.

Councillor Julie Gunnell
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

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Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies

Committees/Working Groups

Planning Committee

To replace Cllr Williams as chair of the Committee. (1 Labour vacancy)

Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To appoint Mrs Rachel Barber and Mrs Paula Widdowson to the Committee as Statutory Co-opted Members (Parent Governor Representatives) [Note: They will only be required to attend meetings where educational issues are being discussed]

Scrutiny Management Committee

To replace Cllr Williams as a member of the Committee as he is now a Cabinet Member (1 Lab vacancy)

Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To replace Cllr Williams as a sub on the Committee as he is now a Cabinet Member (1 Lab sub vacancy)

Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To replace Cllr Williams as a member of the Committee as he is now a Cabinet Member (1 Lab vacancy)

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To appoint Cllr Healey in place of Cllr Wiseman on this Committee.

City Centre Access Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee

To replace Cllr Williams as a member of the Committee as he is now a Cabinet Member (1 Lab vacancy)

Equality Advisory Group

To appoint Dan Sidley (LGBT Forum) as a non-voting co-opted member, in place of Simon Rodgers.

Member Development Steering Group

To replace Cllr Williams as a member of the Committee (1 Lab vacancy)

Partnership Bodies

YorOK Board

To appoint Cllr Looker as Vice-Chair of the YorOK Board, in place of Cllr Potter.

Outside Bodies

Charity of Jane Wright

To re-appoint Miss Anne Sains for a further 4 year period from 4 December 2011.

Health and Wellbeing Board

To appoint Cllr Wiseman to the Board.